Cherwell District Council - March 2026

LGA/ADPH Annual Public Health Conference

I've been to this conference asking questions on the expansion of primary Care.
It's been interesting to hear that the situation here is fairly common.

You may also have heard the Wes Streeting has taken a personal interest in the development of a health Centre in Didcot. The Western Park surgery has been in planning for a decade.

Asked Directly to Ansaf Anzar of Oxfordshire County Council:
In your intro you noted the role of public health and planning.

How are we going to get the ICB's to play their part in Local Plan development?
How are we going to get the ICB's to create a plan for the expansion of Primary Care (GP services?)
How are we going to get the ICB's to regularly request developer contributions to fund their (often no-existent) plan for primary care expansion?
How are we going to encourage the Government to encourage the ICB's to be involved in this planning role?
How are we going to get the District Valuation Service to set rents that make primary care expansion more likely?

Without solutions to these issues, we are unlikely to see a significant expansion in Primary Care services.

What is being done to ensure that the recommended new Town at Heyford Park is going to have any Primary Care services?

Local Government Association – Councillors Forum

The most recent meeting is looking at national reform across health and care.
I submitted question:

I welcome the 10-year plan for health and its vision but note that it does address the structural issues in delivering additional infrastructure. Wes Streeting has taken a personal interest in the decade long delay to the new Health Centre at Western Park in Didcot. Could you please undertake to provide a summary of the difficulties and potential remedies that will allow this project to be delivered?

I'll let you know if I get any answers to any of the above.

What else did I get up to?

Recently I have:

- Scrutinised the budget and put forward an amendment that echoed the points you made to the budget consultation.
- Met residents in Hook Norton regarding flooding issues.
- Discussed the need for road repairs in Deddington after Thames Water finish the water mains upgrade.
- Supported various residents and Parish Councils on planning matters.
- Completed a traini9ng course on the role of the Scrutiny Committee
- Met Conservative colleagues to plan our Budget approach.
- Attended the Hook Norton Neighbourhood Plan public meetings
- Met senior officers for our regular catch-up.
- Attended the Local Government Association health conference to champion Primary Care
- Attended the opening sessions of the Local Plan hearings.
- Met with local GPs to discuss the expansion of Primary Care
- Met with English Heritage regarding Deddington Castle and the upcoming exhibition of the Bayeux Tapestry
- Attended the Local Government Councillors Forum to press for additional funding for our Primary Schools
- Have chaired Overview and Scrutiny at Cherwell District Council ensuring that the matter of funding for GP's is brought to the councils' attention.

What's coming up in March?

March will be another busy month as we approach May's Local Elections.
I will continue door knocking with our local team, scrutinising planning applications, meeting officers, developing policy proposals and working with community leaders and business owners.

If you need my help with anything, please get in touch.

Cllr David Rogers
Cherwell District Council