

These notes indicate the decisions taken at this meeting and the officers responsible for taking the agreed action. For background documentation please refer to the agenda and supporting papers available on the Council's web site ([www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk).)

If you have a query please contact Chris Reynolds (Tel: 07542 029441; E-Mail: [chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk))

## COUNTY COUNCIL - FRIDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2022

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA	DECISIONS	ACTION
<p><b>1. Minutes</b></p> <p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2022 (<b>CC1</b>) and to receive information arising from them.</p>	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2022 were approved as a correct record</p>	<p>DLG (C Reynolds)</p>
<p><b>2. Apologies for Absence</b></p>	<p>Apologies were received from Councillors Bloomfield (Vice-Chair), Banfield, Champken-Woods, Corkin, Fadlalla, Fatemian, Fawcett, Field-Johnson, Graham, Gregory, Hanna, Levy, Lygo, Murphy, Paule, Povolotsky, Sibley and Waive</p>	<p>DLG (A Newman)</p>
<p><b>3. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note</b></p> <p>Members are reminded that they must declare their interests orally at the meeting and specify (a) the nature of the interest and (b) which items on the agenda are the relevant items. This applies also to items where members have interests by virtue of their membership of a district council in Oxfordshire.</p>	<p>Councillor Middleton declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 17 – Motion by Councillor Nigel Simpson – but remained in the meeting.</p>	<p>DLG (A Newman)</p>
<p><b>4. Official Communications</b></p>	<p>The Chair made a statement on the period of mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the condolence books provided in the Common Hall at County Hall.</p> <p>The Chair also referred to the proclamation of His Majesty King Charles III</p>	

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	The Council then period tribute to the late Councillor David Markham and observed a minute's silence in his memory.	
<p><b>5. Appointments</b></p> <p>To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.</p>	<p>Council noted the following appointments:-</p> <p>Cllr Howson to replace Cllr Povolotsky on Pension Fund Committee</p> <p>Cllr Mallon to replace Cllr Corkin on Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Cllr Leverton to replace Cllr Ash on People Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Cllr Hannaby to replace Cllr Fawcett on Oxfordshire County Council Joint Consultative Committee for Uniformed Members of the Fire Service</p> <p>Cllr Constance to replace Cllr Ford on Audit and Governance Committee</p> <p>Cllr Ford to replace Cllr Corkin on Remuneration Committee</p> <p>Cllr Levy to replace Cllr van Mierlo on Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Cllr van Mierlo to replace Cllr Levy on Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p><u>Shadow Cabinet</u></p> <p>Leader – Cllr Reeves</p> <p>Deputy Leader – Cllr Ford</p> <p>Children, Education and Young People's Services – Cllr Simpson</p>	DLG (A Newman)

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## COUNTY COUNCIL - FRIDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2022

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA	DECISIONS	ACTION
	<p>Corporate Services – Cllr Ford</p> <p>Community Services and Safety – Cllr Bulmer</p> <p>Highways Management – Cllr Walker</p> <p>Finance – Cllr Bartholomew</p> <p>Adult Social Care – Cllr Leverton</p> <p>Travel and Development Strategy – Cllr Snowdon</p> <p>Climate Change Delivery and Environment – Cllr Fenton</p>	
<p><b>6. Petitions and Public Address</b></p> <p><i>This is a postponed meeting and no further requests to present petitions or speak at this meeting will be accepted</i></p> <p><i>The Council will hear the members of the public who had requested to speak at the September meeting</i></p>	<p><b><u>Public Address</u></b></p> <p>Firas Modad regarding the invitation to a drag artist to participate at a children’s story time event in the County Library</p> <p>Kate Robinson regarding divestment from fossil fuels &amp; the Local Government Pension Scheme</p> <p>David Brown in support of the motion by Cllr Simpson regarding the Sandy Lane Rail Crossing</p> <p>Students from Cherwell School regarding the impact of climate change</p>	
<p><b>7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public</b></p>	<p>None received</p>	

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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p><b>8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council</b></p>	<p>34 Questions with Notice were asked. Details of the questions and answers and supplementary questions and answers will be set out in the Annex to the minutes.</p> <p>In relation to question 3 (Question from Cllr Eddie Reeves to Cllr Calum Miller) Cllr Miller undertook to provide a written reply detailing the amount of funding from the Housing and Growth Deal and DLUCH for the A34 junction at Lodge Hill</p> <p>In relation to question 5 (Question from Cllr Donna Ford to Cllr Jenny Hannaby) Cllr Hannaby confirmed that she would provide an update on the proposed relocation of Banbury Library</p>	<p>DoF (L Baxter)</p>
<p><b>9. Report of the Cabinet</b></p> <p>Report of the Cabinet meeting of 19 July 2022.</p>	<p>Council received the report of the Cabinet</p> <p>In relation to a question from Cllr Ian Snowdon, Cllr Calum Miller undertook to provide a written answer on the implications for the capital programme of the land acquisitions for the Watlington Relief Road and the Milton Heights Bridge</p> <p>In relation to a question from Cllr Robin Bennett, Cllr Duncan Enright undertook to provide a written response on progress with the Didcot Town Scheme</p>	<p>DoF (L Baxter)</p> <p>Comms (Q&amp;M)</p>

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## COUNTY COUNCIL - FRIDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2022

<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p><b>10. Local Government Electoral Review for Oxfordshire</b></p> <p>Report by Director of Law and Governance</p> <p><b>Council is RECOMMENDED to establish a cross-party group with membership drawn from each political group following liaison with the Political Group Leaders. This will be supported by a technical officer group set up by the Director of Law and Governance.</b></p>	<p>Recommendations agreed nem con</p>	<p>DLG (R Hodby)</p>
<p><b>11. Amendments to the Council's Constitution and its Presentation (including recommendations from the Constitution Working Group)</b></p> <p>Report by Director of Law and Governance</p> <p>The Cross Party Constitution Working Group ("the CWG") held nine meetings between November 2021 and July 2022. It was tasked with considering ways of amending the Constitution and then making recommendations. The recommendations contained in this report arise from its work and were approved by the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 20 July 2022.</p> <p><b>Council is RECOMMENDED to approve:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>The changes to the presentation of the Constitution on the Council's website referred to in paragraphs 4 to 8 of the report</b></li> <li>b) <b>The video and diagram referred to in paragraphs 9 to 11 of the report for inclusion on the Council's website</b></li> <li>c) <b>The proposals for the incorporation of all of the current Articles into the main body of the Constitution referred to in paragraphs 12 to 14 of the report</b></li> </ul>	<p>Recommendations agreed nem con</p>	<p>DLG (R Hodby)</p>

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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>d) The proposals for amendment to the Protocol on Members' Rights and Responsibilities, the Protocol on Member/Officer Relations, the Council Procedure Rules and the Contract Procedure Rules in the Constitution referred to in paragraphs 15 to 23 of the report</p> <p>e) The proposed new Part 2 of the Constitution relating to the Fire and Rescue Service referred to in paragraphs 26 to 28 of the report; and</p> <p>f) A delegation to the Director of Law and Governance to make textual amendments to the Constitution to address any inconsistencies or correct any cross-referencing errors arising from or as a consequence of the amendments, along with updating job and group titles if those referred to in the Constitution are obsolete (insofar as the Director of Law and Governance does not already have such a delegation)</p> <p>Council is also recommended:</p> <p>g) To note that the Code of Conduct it adopted on 5 April 2022 and the Current Scheme of Allowances referred to in paragraphs 24 to 25 below will be incorporated into the Constitution.</p>		
<p><b>12. Proposed changes to the Constitution of the Pension Fund Committee</b></p> <p>Report by Director of Law &amp; Governance</p> <p><b>Council is RECOMMENDED to endorse recommendations a) to d) agreed by the Pension Fund Committee, and endorsed by the Audit &amp; Governance Committee, as set out below.</b></p>	<p>Recommendations agreed nem con</p>	<p>DLG (K Ahmed)</p>

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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>a) That the contents of the report be noted.</p> <p>b) That approval be given to amend the Governance Policy to mandate all Members of the Committee to complete training in line with the Training Policy as set out in paragraph 18 of the report.</p> <p>c) That approval be given to only named substitutes of the Committee being allowed where they have completed training in line with the Training Policy.</p> <p>d) That Council mandate the Director of Law &amp; Governance to make the appropriate changes to the Terms of Reference and Constitution of the Pension Fund Committee to formalise the new governance arrangements and</p> <p>Council is also RECOMMENDED to endorse the following agreed by the Audit and Governance Committee:</p> <p>e) That when the Independent Remuneration Panel is next due to formally meet, a full review be undertaken of Members' responsibilities and commitments relating to their roles and the appropriateness of whether an additional allowance should be provided be considered in relation to specific roles.</p>		
<p><b>13. Motion by Councillor Liz Brighthouse</b></p> <p>Councils across England have seen their deficits in Special Educational Needs and Disabilities rise. It currently stands at a record £2.4b. Oxfordshire's deficit is</p>	<p>The motion was carried unanimously (42 votes to 0)</p>	<p>DLG (S Harper)</p>

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<p>roughly £20m and rising. Like other authorities, Oxfordshire will face catastrophic financial decisions when in 2023 the Government removes the ability of Local Authorities to keep this debt within a separate reserve budget. Unless removed by government, Oxfordshire will have to find ways to fund the deficit within its budget for 2023/24.</p> <p>The deficits have built up after many years of rising demand for services and Central Government now needs to address the issue.</p> <p>This Council asks the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Education and the Chancellor asking that these debts be written off so that the reforms necessary in the Green Paper and in Oxfordshire's own SEND Strategy, which will reduce costs, can be delivered without the strain of historic deficits.</p>		
<p><b>14.Motion by Councillor Roz Smith</b></p> <p>This Council notes that:</p> <p>This Government has consistently failed to address the cost of living crisis.</p> <p>Oxfordshire households face spiralling costs with fuel and energy costs, especially affecting front line workers, logistics, farming and food production.</p> <p>Energy &amp; fuel rises impact on all this council's services and there is concern about budgeted schemes due to inflation, and availability of personnel and resources.</p> <p>1 in 3 households reported their cost of living had risen, citing affordability of food and medicines as a major concern. Many households face a decision between "heat or eat"</p>	<p>With the consent of Council, the Amendment by Councillor Roz Smith was accepted</p> <p>The amendment by Councillor Eddie Reeves as set out in the Schedule of Business was lost by 30 votes to 12</p> <p>The substantive motion as amended was carried by 30 votes to 12</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:-</b></p> <p>This Council notes that:</p> <p>This Government has consistently failed to <del>address</del> <b>prepare for</b> the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>Oxfordshire households face spiralling costs with fuel and energy costs, especially affecting front line workers, logistics, farming and food production.</p>	<p>CODR ( R Rogers)</p>



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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>This Council therefore declares a 'Cost of Living Emergency' and calls on the Government to:</p> <p>Subsidise buses and trains, to ensure that people can travel for essential education and work.</p> <p>Urgently review the energy cap to provide much greater protection to consumers, including a cap for off grid homes.</p> <p>Immediately change taxation on fuel to transfer the risk of price changes to the Government pegged at long-term average prices.</p> <p>Immediately reduce VAT to 17.5%</p> <p>Restore the £20 Universal Credit supplement, previously cancelled by the Government.</p> <p>Recognise Oxfordshire will need urgent additional funds to support homelessness, school transport, social care services, waste disposal, and a plethora of other council functions and programme deliveries affected by the increase in prices and inflation.</p> <p>Council recommends to the Cabinet that this Council holds an urgent Cost-of-Living Summit to work towards a holistic and adaptive response to the emergency in Oxfordshire.</p>	<p>Energy &amp; fuel rises impact on all this council's services and there is concern about budgeted schemes due to inflation, and availability of personnel and resources.</p> <p>1 in 3 households reported their cost of living had risen, citing affordability of food and medicines as a major concern. Many households face a decision between "heat or eat"</p> <p>This Council therefore declares a 'Cost of Living Emergency' and calls on the Government to:</p> <p>Subsidize buses and trains, to ensure that people can travel for essential education and work.</p> <p><del>Urgently review the energy cap to provide much greater protection to consumers, including a cap for off grid homes.</del> <b>Invest in decarbonising energy in the UK to prepare for further energy shortages and sustainability.</b></p> <p>Immediately change taxation on fuel to transfer the risk of price changes to the Government pegged at long-term average prices.</p> <p>Immediately reduce VAT to 17.5%</p> <p>Restore the £20 Universal Credit supplement, previously cancelled by the Government.</p> <p>Recognise Oxfordshire will need urgent additional funds to support homelessness, school transport, social care services, waste disposal, and a plethora of other council functions and programme deliveries affected by the increase in prices and</p>	

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	<p>inflation.</p> <p>Council recommends to the Cabinet that this Council holds an urgent Cost-of-Living Summit to work towards a holistic and adaptive response to the emergency in Oxfordshire.</p>	
<p><b>15. Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves</b></p> <p>This Council notes that the Councillors' Priority Fund policy is currently set to end on 31 March 2023 at the end of the financial year with the final tranche of members' funding needing to be committed on or before 31 January 2023.</p> <p>This Council notes the successes of the Councillors' Priority Fund in ensuring that elected members can have a direct impact on their communities by facilitating community-action schemes, school safety projects, construction of pedestrian crossings and other meaningful measures.</p> <p>Notwithstanding budgetary pressures and without prejudice to the Council's budget consultation exercise, this Council asks that Cabinet gives full consideration to maintaining the Councillors' Priority Fund at its current level for the forthcoming financial year.</p>	<p>The motion was carried unanimously (42 votes to 0)</p>	<p>DoF (L Baxter)</p>
<p><b>16. Motion by Councillor Yvonne Constance</b></p> <p>This Council notes that the Leader has acknowledged the challenging market conditions faced by Oxfordshire's excellent meat and dairy farmers</p> <p>This Council further notes that local authorities have an important duty to engage positively and proportionately in public discourse.</p>	<p>The motion was lost (28 votes to 13)</p>	

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<p>Given the privileged position in which this Council finds itself and the potentially damaging effects of its motion dated 14 December 2021, this Council resolves to offer locally produced menus at Council-catered events, including meat, dairy, and vegan options, or to make alternative provisions for members, staff, and attendees to facilitate personal choice.</p>		
<p><b>17. Motion by Councillor Nigel Simpson</b></p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council has acknowledged the Climate Change Emergency.</p> <p>A major contributor to excessive CO2 output are unnecessary car journeys. The proposal by Network Rail to shut the vital link between Yarnton and Kidlington by closing the rail crossing at Sandy Lane will result in a significant increase in carbon emissions.</p> <p>Permanent closure would see drivers forced to use Frieze Way or Langford Lane resulting in an average extra distance travelled of nearly two miles per journey.</p> <p>Based on current trends this is estimated to result in an extra 4750 miles travelled on weekdays and an additional 3800 at weekends, resulting in 1.5 million unnecessary miles per year.</p> <p>The cost of such surplus miles in money is hundreds of thousands of pounds to residents and businesses who rely on their cars; and extra pollution in the form of many tonnes of carbon emissions, contrary to the Council's environmental objectives.</p> <p>This would go directly against the Council's ambition to reduce CO2 output generated by transport and very significantly degrade the network of contacts that currently underpins the ancient and vital community</p>	<p>With the consent of Council, this motion was withdrawn</p>	

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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>nexus around the parishes of Yarnton, Begbroke, Kidlington and Gosford and Water Eaton.</p> <p>This Council calls upon the Leader to urgently write to Network Rail to oppose the proposed closure and further to instruct her officers and relevant Cabinet colleague(s) to lobby for this vital link to be maintained with improvements, where possible, especially for cyclists and pedestrians.</p>		
<p><b>18. Motion by Councillor Ian Middleton</b></p> <p>The Home Office announcement of its intention to reopen Campsfield House Immigration Detention Centre in Kidlington ignores local and national feeling on the treatment of refugees. It's also a cruel, ineffective, and costly backwards step for this government, for our country and for the people of Kidlington, Yarnton and Begbroke.</p> <p>In the years before its closure in 2018, Campsfield House was used to detain nearly 30,000 migrants. During that time there were weekly demonstrations, protests, hunger strikes, two suicides, escapes and scores of legal challenges. It was finally closed following a damning inquiry into conditions.</p> <p>The UK is ranked 20th in terms of asylum applications processed, and 19th for applications accepted. Two thirds of UK asylum seekers' claims are turned down, the highest refusal rate in Europe, with 41% of those decisions overturned on appeal.</p> <p>Instead of criminalising people fleeing war, oppression and persecution, who have already suffered at the hands of people traffickers, the government should focus on achieving its own targets to deal with</p>	<p>The motion was carried by 27 votes to 8</p>	<p>DLE (S Harper)</p>

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<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>asylum claims promptly and fairly.</p> <p>This Council therefore condemns the re-opening of Campsfield House and asks the Leader to write to the Home Secretary calling for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The cancellation of the reopening of Campsfield House as a detention centre.</li> <li>2. The creation of safe havens and more legal routes to apply for asylum in the UK.</li> <li>3. The prioritisation of prompt and fair processing of asylum claims whilst introducing appropriate safeguards to allow asylum seekers to live and work in our communities in the meantime</li> </ol>		
<p><b>19. Motion by Councillor Judy Roberts</b></p> <p>The Council has recently voted unanimously to pass the new Local Transport and Connectivity Plan. The headline goal of this policy is to reduce car journeys by 1 in 4 across Oxfordshire by 2030.</p> <p>The achieving of this goal will require many residents across the county to change their everyday travel habits and behaviours.</p> <p>As a Council and as councillors we lead by example. Having a free car park in front of County Hall in central Oxford is not the way to lead by example and an embarrassing relic that lies in stark contradiction to our published goals, especially when we are asking others to reduce their car use, and when there are plentiful other ways to travel to County Hall including Park &amp; Ride, bus, train, cycling and walking. Members of all parties have</p>	<p>With the consent of Council, this motion was withdrawn</p>	

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<p>recently voiced their support for our excellent Park and Ride as well as the many other direct services to County Hall.</p> <p>Therefore, the Council recommends that the Cabinet give consideration to closing the car park at the front of County Hall by Spring 2023 and repurpose the space with public realm improvements, such as green infrastructure, trees and benches. A full disability assessment should be carried out and Disabled parking bays would need to be retained for those with blue badges for access to County Hall, preferably between County Hall and the Castle complex.</p>		
<p><b>20. Motion by Councillor Neil Fawcett</b></p> <p>First Past the Post (FPTP) originated when voting was restricted to property-owning men.</p> <p>In Europe, only the UK and authoritarian Belarus still use archaic single-round FPTP for general elections.</p> <p>Meanwhile, internationally, Proportional Representation (PR) is used to elect parliaments in more than 80 countries. Those countries tend to be more equal, freer and greener.</p> <p>PR ensures all votes count, have more equal value, and those seats won more closely match votes cast. Under PR, MPs and Parliaments better reflect the age, gender and protected characteristics of local communities and the nation.</p> <p>Authorities and governments that better reflect their communities lead to improved decision-making, wider participation and increased levels of ownership of decisions taken.</p> <p>PR would also end minority rule. In 2019, 43.6% of the vote produced a government</p>	<p>With the consent of Council, this motion was withdrawn</p>	

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<p>with 56.2% of the seats and 100% of the power. PR also prevents 'wrong winner' elections such as occurred in 1951 and February 1974.</p> <p>PR is already used to elect the parliaments and assemblies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. So why not Westminster?</p> <p>Council therefore resolves to write to H.M. Government calling for a change in our outdated electoral laws to enable Proportional Representation to be used for general elections and for elections to councils in England and to retain for PCC elections.</p>		
<p><b>21. Motion by Councillor Brad Baines</b></p> <p>Council is concerned that the government's Adult Social Care charging reforms are potentially hugely underfunded which will put implementation at risk as well as adding to existing pressures.</p> <p>The UK wide health and social care levy will raise £36 billion over the next three years but only £5.4 billion is ring-fenced for social care reforms in England.</p> <p>The implication of underfunding these reforms is to put even greater pressure on unpaid carers – including young carers – to increase waiting times for assessments and further delays in the provision of care.</p> <p>Oxfordshire is one of six 'trailblazing' Councils in England who are implementing the reforms earlier than the rest of the country and this Council needs assurances from government that when the outcomes from the 'trailblazing' Councils are known that government funds the reforms in line with these costs.</p> <p>Consequently, this Council calls on the Leader to write to the Secretaries of State</p>	<p>The motion was carried by 27 votes to 7</p>	<p>DLG (S Harper)</p>

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**COUNTY COUNCIL - FRIDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2022**

<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
for Health and Social Care and Levelling Up and Communities to request assurances of future funding in line with the aforementioned additional cost burden.		