

County Council

17 February 2015

Agenda

Declarations of Interest

The duty to declare.....

Under the Localism Act 2011 it is a criminal offence to

- (a) fail to register a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election or co-option (or re-election or re-appointment), or
- (b) provide false or misleading information on registration, or
- (c) participate in discussion or voting in a meeting on a matter in which the member or co-opted member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

Whose Interests must be included?

The Act provides that the interests which must be notified are those of a member or co-opted member of the authority, **or**

- those of a spouse or civil partner of the member or co-opted member;
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as husband/wife
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as if they were civil partners.

(in each case where the member or co-opted member is aware that the other person has the interest).

What if I remember that I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the Meeting?.

The Code requires that, at a meeting, where a member or co-opted member has a disclosable interest (of which they are aware) in any matter being considered, they disclose that interest to the meeting. The Council will continue to include an appropriate item on agendas for all meetings, to facilitate this.

Although not explicitly required by the legislation or by the code, it is recommended that in the interests of transparency and for the benefit of all in attendance at the meeting (including members of the public) the nature as well as the existence of the interest is disclosed.

A member or co-opted member who has disclosed a pecuniary interest at a meeting must not participate (or participate further) in any discussion of the matter; and must not participate in any vote or further vote taken; and must withdraw from the room.

Members are asked to continue to pay regard to the following provisions in the code that *“You must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself”* or *“You must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned.....”*.

Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting should you have any doubt about your approach.

List of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Employment (includes *“any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain”*.), **Sponsorship, Contracts, Land, Licences, Corporate Tenancies, Securities.**

For a full list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and further Guidance on this matter please see the Guide to the New Code of Conduct and Register of Interests at Members’ conduct guidelines. <http://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Insite/Elected+members/> or contact Glenn Watson on (01865) 815270 or glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

To: Members of the County Council

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

Tuesday, 17 February 2015 at 10.00 am

The Council Chamber, County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND

Joanna Simons

Joanna Simons
Chief Executive

February 2015

Contact Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: (01865) 815384; E-Mail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that Items 3, 7 and 12 will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is to provide an *aide-memoire* to assist the clerk of the meeting in the drafting of minutes.

Members are asked to sign the attendance book which will be available in the corridor outside the Council Chamber. A list of members present at the meeting will be compiled from this book.

A buffet luncheon will be provided

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 36)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2014 (CC1) and to receive information arising from them.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note

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.

4. Official Communications

5. Appointments

To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.

6. Petitions and Public Address

7. Pay Policy Statement - Remuneration Committee Report to Council on 17 February 2015 (Pages 37 - 62)

Report by the Head of Human Resources (**CC7**)

The Remuneration Committee is required to report annually to Council on the Pay Policy Statement. The report updates the pay policy statement and indicates the future proposals of the Remuneration Committee

The Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) receive the report of the Remuneration Committee;***
- (b) approve the revised Pay Policy Statement at Annex 2 to this report.***

8. Service & Resource Planning 2015/16 - 2018/19 (Pages 63 - 278)

Report by the Chief Finance Officer (**CC8**) including the Leader of the Council's overview (Section 1), Corporate Plan (Section 2), Budget Strategy and Capital Programme (Section 3) and the Directorate Business Strategies and Performance Indicators (Section 4). The recommendations set out below (and in the report) are made subject to the Chief Finance Officer's statutory report on the robustness of the budget estimates and adequacy of financial reserves (Section 5).

The Labour, Liberal Democrat, and Green Groups propose to submit amendments to the budget proposals (**CC8 Labour**), (**CC8 Liberal Democrat**), and (**CC8 Green**) respectively and these will be circulated separately.

The Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) approve the Corporate Plan 2015/16 – 2017/18 (update for 2015/16) as set out in section 2.0;***
- (b) approve the Financial Strategy 2014/15 – 2017/18 (update for 2015/16) as set out in section 3.1;***

- (c) *have regard to the Chief Finance Officer's report (at Section 5) in approving recommendations d to h below;*
- (d) *(in respect of revenue) approve:*
- (1) *the council tax and precept calculations for 2015/16 set out in section 3.2 and in particular:*
 - (i) *a precept of £288,252,933;*
 - (ii) *a council tax for band D equivalent properties of £1,232.46;*
 - (2) *a budget for 2015/16 as set out in section 3.3 including the:*
 - (i) *virement of £2.751m from corporate contingency to Children's Social Care (CEF2-3);*
 - (ii) *new reserve for Business Rates;*
 - (3) *a medium term plan for 2015/16 to 2017/18 as set out in section 3.4 (which incorporates changes to the existing medium term financial plan as set out in section 3.5);*
 - (4) *the use of Dedicated Schools Grant (provisional allocation) for 2015/16 as set out in section 3.6;*
 - (5) *virement arrangements to operate within the approved budget for 2015/16 as set out in section 3.7;*
- (e) *(in respect of balances and reserves) approve:*
- (1) *the Chief Finance Officer's recommended level of balances for 2015/16 as set out in section 3.8.1*
 - (2) *the planned level of reserves for 2015/16 to 2017/18 as set out in section 3.8.2;*
- (f) *(in respect of capital) approve:*
- (1) *a Capital Programme for 2014/15 to 2018/19 as set out in section 3.9 including the Highways Structural Maintenance Programme 2015/16 and 2016/17 in section 3.9.1;*
- (g) *(in respect of treasury management) approve:*
- (1) *the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/16 as set out in section 3.10;*
 - (2) *the continued delegation of authority to withdraw or advance additional funds to/from external fund managers to the Treasury Management Strategy Team;*
 - (3) *that any further changes required to the 2015/16 strategy be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance;*
 - (4) *the Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix A of section 3.10*
 - (5) *the Minimum Revenue Provision Methodology Statement as set out in Appendix B of section 3.10;*
 - (6) *the Specified Investment and Non Specified Investment Instruments as set out in Appendix C and D of section 3.10;*
 - (7) *the Treasury Management Policy Statement as set out at Appendix E of section 3.10;*
- (h) *approve the directorate business strategies and performance indicators as set out in section 4.0 and 4.1.*

9. Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service (Pages 279 - 284)

Report by the County Solicitor & Monitoring Officer (**CC9**).

The County Council faces very serious funding challenges, with all political parties signalling that they expect to have to make significant spending cuts after the general election. Over recent years local government has delivered enormous savings but it is anticipated that it will be expected to bear much of the brunt of these further cuts, as health and education and others are protected.

The view of the Leader of the Council is that a new operating model is needed to address these issues, in order to enable the Council to continue to deliver the outcomes residents deserve and ensure value for money for tax payers.

The Leader therefore proposes that the traditional model of a Chief Executive and separate Directorates needs to be modernised to reduce costs and embrace a more distributed model of managerial leadership with closer working between officers and councillors, and building on our existing partnerships.

It is considered that removing the paid post of Chief Executive and redistributing its responsibilities, including the statutory role of Head of Paid Service would achieve both savings and a more streamlined, distributed management structure more fitted to the challenges facing the Council in the future.

This report therefore seeks Full Council's approval for the removal of the post of Chief Executive and the consequent dismissal by redundancy of the current post holder, and Head of Paid Service, Joanna Simons.

Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (b) note that no objections from Cabinet Members have been received, and so agree the removal of the post of Chief Executive from the Council's organisational structure;**
- (c) agree the dismissal by redundancy of the current Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, Joanna Simons, on the terms outlined in this report; and, in consequence,**
- (d) ask the Remuneration Committee to submit recommendations to Council as to the appointment of a Head of Paid Service;**
- (e) agree to receive a further report, following decisions by Cabinet under paragraph 16 above, detailing other consequential appointments, delegations and organisational matters, for Council consideration;**
- (f) authorise the County Solicitor to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution as a result of these decisions;**
- (g) thank Joanna Simons for her dedicated service to the Council as Chief Executive over the last ten years.**

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 16 February 2015 at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders