

County Council

3 November 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, 3 November 2015 at 10.00 am

County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND



P.G. Clark
Head of Paid Service

October 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 - 34)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2015 (**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. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public

8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

9. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 35 - 40)

Report of the Cabinet meetings held on 15 September 2015 and 20 October 2015 (CC9).

10. Adult Services Workforce Strategy (Pages 41 - 46)

Report by Director for Adult Social Care (CC10).

The Adult Social Care sector in Oxfordshire is facing significant challenges with workforce capacity and capability, arising from growing demand for care and support and the increasing complexity of care and support needs.

Modelling by the Council has established that the county's social care workforce needs to grow by up to 750 every year for the next 10 years just to keep pace with the growing numbers of people requiring care.

To address the longer term workforce issues, Oxfordshire County Council worked with stakeholders during 2014/15 to develop and produce the Oxfordshire Adult Social Care Workforce Strategy 2015/18 and draft implementation plan.

The purpose of the Workforce Strategy is to build the capacity and capability of the workforce and the implementation plan outlines practical steps to achieve this.

On 20 October, the Cabinet considered and approved the Workforce Strategy and

agreed that the report be presented to full Council.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report.

11. Virements to Council (Pages 47 - 50)

Report by the Chief Finance Officer (CC11)

As set out in the Financial Monitoring and Business Strategy Delivery Report to Cabinet on 20 October 2015, there are two virements that under the virement rules need to be agreed by Council. The virements are in respect of the un-ring-fenced grant received by the Council relating to the closure of the Independent Living Fund and the transfer £2.0m from Public Health reserves to the Capital Programme for the Children's Homes Project. Details are set out in Annex 1 to the report.

Council is RECOMMENDED to agree:

- (a) the virements in respect of the unring-fenced grant received by the Council relating to the closure of the Independent Living Fund;***
- (b) the transfer £2.0m from Public Health reserves to the Capital Programme for the Children's Homes Project.***

12. Oxfordshire Devolution - Themed Debate (Pages 51 - 78)

Report by the Leader of the Council (CC12).

On 4 September, the Leaders of the six Oxfordshire Authorities, along with the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Clinical Commissioning Group submitted an expression of interest to government setting out initial proposals for devolution in Oxfordshire for discussion with government. This is attached at Annex A. The proposals request greater local control over significant funding for transport, skills training and health services.

At its meeting on 20 October Cabinet agreed that a debate should be held at full council in order to understand all members' views. This paper is provided to inform discussions. It contains an overview of the context, the proposals, the current work underway and sets out the next stages in the process.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report and to consider the possible implications of devolution to Oxfordshire.

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

WOULD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS WITH NOTICE MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE PROPER OFFICER IN WRITING BY 9.00 AM ON THE MONDAY BEFORE THE MEETING

13. Motion From Councillor Liz Brighthouse

“This Council, being deeply disturbed at the cuts it has already implemented, those it has agreed but not yet implemented and the additional cuts which will be required as it sets next year's budget, calls on the Government not to set a limit on the Council Tax increase as such a restriction stifles local democracy and will severely hamper our ability to meet the needs of Oxfordshire's Citizens. If such a restriction is subsequently set it asks officers in consultation with Group Leaders to set up an informal survey on the attitude of Oxfordshire's residents to a referendum to meet those needs by an increase in the Council Tax.”

14. Motion From Councillor David Williams

“Having taken into account the comments that have been made during the consultation period thus far, the Council requests that the Cabinet reconsider that the closure of any of the Children's Centres be set aside and not included in the forthcoming budget settlement as an action to assist with further savings. The Council recognises that the closures may be a false economy, the impact on families being such that closure will in all probability result in greater financial pressures on the social services and the local NHS. As individuals, mostly women will be forced to give up part time employment, as a result of the planned closures. The Council also recognises that this policy will not only deeply impact on thousands of families and their children but also damage the local economy.

During the next six months the Council will assist the Children's Centres in their ongoing quest for greater efficiency where it can. However for the foreseeable future the option of closure will be lifted and existing financial support retained for all the centres in the network. The Cabinet to take account of this full Council budgetary decision whilst formulating the accounts for the next financial year 2016-2017.”

15. Motion From Councillor David Williams

“This Council welcomes the return of the Business Rate to local Council control but is concerned that the Chancellor is still pledged to continue to reduce the level of Rates Support Grant in his objective of achieving a free market in raising local taxation for that philosophy takes no account of the needs in various local authorities and will only serve to further widen the gap between affluent and deprived areas of the Country.

The Council is also concerned that the 'devolution' of control of the Business Rate will be of limited value if it is set at a national flat rate determined by central government a flat rate that the Council cannot modify or sub divide as it sees fit.

After more details are revealed in the New Year, a special briefing to be established that all Councillors and senior officers should be invited to attend to illustrate what this change in responsibilities will mean in financial income and what flexibility the Chancellor has actually given, if any, to local councils to implement a real devolved Business Rate service.”

16. Motion From Councillor Sam Coates

“This Council notes the problems that are emerging with the implementation of the ‘Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015’ for teachers and social workers, as well as those in the local community, such as landlords and religious leaders.

There is a challenge for specified authorities, including local authorities, schools, the police, health and others, to implement the new legal obligation in the exercise of their functions, in order to have ‘due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism’ and, especially for schools to promote ‘British values’, in order to ensure the protection of vulnerable adults and young people at risk of radicalisation.

The legislation, like all laws based on ‘suspicion’ could breach free speech and professional confidentiality and with its legal obligations places responsibilities on officers of the Council that may be deemed unfair. There is also the fear that a network of false accusations could arise wasting precious police time and stigmatising specific young people. However, these fears and challenges need to be balanced with ensuring that vulnerable people are safeguarded from exploitation by extremists.

This Council will ask the Director For Children, Education & Families to work collaboratively and sensitively with schools, professional groups, school governors, trade unions, local faith groups and others to ensure that implementation of the new duty is done constructively and in consultation with local communities as appropriate.”

17. Motion From Councillor Gill Sanders

“This Council recognising that many parents do not take up the offer of a funded place for their 2 year olds, asks the Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families to write to the Secretary of State asking that the criteria for receiving the grant be extended to include parents who do not have the confidence to leave their small children but who would happily take up and benefit from taking up a place if they could stay with their 2 year old.”

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 2 November 2015 at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders