

These notes indicate the decisions taken at this meeting and the officers responsible for taking any resulting action. For background documentation please refer to the agenda and supporting papers circulated to all members of the Council and available on the Council's web site (www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.)

If you have a query please contact Deborah Miller (Tel: (01865) 815384; E-Mail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

COUNTY COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2015

RECOMMENDATIONS	DECISIONS	ACTION
<p>1. Minutes</p> <p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2015 (CC1) and to receive information arising from them.</p>	<p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 November 2015 were approved and signed.</p>	
<p>2. Apologies for Absence</p>	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Neil Owen, Laura Price and Anne Purse.</p>	
<p>3. Declarations of Interest</p>	<p>There were none.</p>	
<p>4. Official Communications</p>	<p>The Chairman reported as follows:</p> <p>Council sent its condolences to the family of Leonard White, former County Librarian from 1976 – 1990. The Chairman reported that the funeral was taking place at St Peter's Church in Wolvercote on 10 December.</p> <p>Following on from the Motion by Councillor Harris, the Meeting with MP's took place on 27th November and a note of the outcome would be circulated to all members of the Council.</p> <p>The Chairman clarified the process on voting. Members were asked to wait until it was announced that the vote had started before voting (any votes prior to that would not be recorded) and that a 5 second warning would be given before the vote finished, with the Chairman asking members to</p>	<p>HPS (S. Lenihan)</p> <p>HLG</p>

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	<p>indicate whether they were happy with their vote before closing the vote. Once the vote had closed, the result would stand and no further amendment could be made.</p> <p>The Chairman drew members' attention to the note on the front of the schedule of business inviting all members to the briefing on Oxfordshire's Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards directly after Council.</p> <p>The Chairman also invited members to view the exhibition in the Council Rooms corridor of a local artist's maps.</p>	
<p>5. Appointments</p> <p>To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.</p>	<p>The Council noted the Leader's changes to portfolio responsibilities as set out in the Schedule of Business.</p>	<p>HLG (A. Bartlett)</p>
<p>6. Petitions and Public Address</p>	<p>The Council received the following Petitions and Public address:</p> <p>Ms Pratima Mitchell and Mr James Young presented a Petition requesting that Oxfordshire County Council re-design the crossing facility for bikes at Hythe Bridge Street and George Street.</p> <p>Mr Charles Young presented a Petition urging the County Council to take all possible steps to promote the growth of car clubs, in particular by granting them dedicated parking spaces on public highway. As many other councils had recognised, cars clubs played an important role in easing congestion and reducing competition for parking spaces. The Council was asked to reverse a</p>	<p>DEE (J. Larkcom)</p> <p>DEE (J. Larkcom)</p>

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	<p>previous decision to request a car club operator to seek private spaces before reapplying for spaces on the public highway.</p> <p>Miss Jessica Hall addressed the Council in support of the motion by Councillor Jean Fooks seeking the Cabinet to amend procurement procedures to require all companies bidding for council contracts to self-certify that they were fully tax-compliant in line with central government practice, using the standards in PPN 03/14, rather than the lower standards in the recent regulations.</p>	
<p>7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public</p>	<p>Mr Clive Hill to Councillor Judith Heathcoat</p> <p>Following the Chipping Norton Hospital Action Group's survey, the results of which we would like to hand over to OCC for its own evaluation, will OCC now take the views expressed by over 1300 people in the community into account and give consideration to including Chipping Norton War Memorial Community Hospital in the countywide review to be conducted in 2016?</p> <p>Answer</p> <p>As with all consultations the Council undertakes, the views of all those in the community who respond will be conscientiously considered.</p>	
<p>8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council</p>	<p>13 questions with notice were asked. Details of the questions and answers and the supplementary questions and answers (where asked) are set out in Annex 1 to the Minutes.</p>	

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<p>9. Report of the Cabinet</p> <p>Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 10 November 2015 (CC9).</p>	<p>The Council received the report of the Cabinet.</p>	
<p>10. Constitution Review</p> <p>Under the Constitution, the Monitoring Officer is required to monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that its aims, principles and requirements are given full effect. This includes making recommendations to Council on any necessary amendments. The Monitoring Officer is authorised to make any changes to the Constitution which are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comply with the law - Give effect to the decisions of Council (or Cabinet, Committees etc.) - Correct errors and otherwise for accuracy or rectification <p>Other changes will only be made by Full Council, following a recommendation of the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>This report therefore updates Council on amendments to the Constitution that have been made consequential on previous decisions of the Council. This is for information only. It also seeks approval of two minor changes, both of which effectively seek to clarify and update existing provisions within the Council Procedure Rules and the Protocol for Member-Officer Relations.</p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>(a) note that changes have been made to the Constitution to give effect to the Council's previous decisions on:</p> <p>(i) senior management structures (Council Minute</p>	<p>RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Mathew, seconded by Councillor Lovatt and carried by 53 votes to 2, with 1 abstention) to refer the report to the Audit & Governance Committee for consideration.</p>	<p>HLG (T. Peart)</p>

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<p><i>Reference 56/15; and</i> <i>(ii) senior officer dismissal procedures (Council Minute Reference 43/15);</i> (b) agree the proposed change to the Council Procedure Rules outlined at paragraph 11 of this report; and (c) agree the proposed change to the Protocol on Member-Officer Relations outlined at paragraph 14 of this report.</p>		
<p>11. Appointment of Independent Person</p> <p>In law the County Council must appoint one or more Independent Persons whose views are to be sought, and taken into account, by the authority before it makes its decision on an allegation that a councillor has breached the Members' Code of Conduct.</p> <p>As such, Independent Persons perform a key role in the Council's procedures for investigating any such complaints. Their role also includes forming part of a Panel of persons, established under statutory procedures, to advise or make recommendations to Council on the potential dismissal of a senior officer.</p> <p>The Council currently has one such Independent Person but it is prudent for more than one to be appointed. This report therefore recommends Council to make a specific appointment to this role.</p> <p><i>Council is RECOMMENDED to appoint Dr Sadie Reynolds to the role of Independent Person under Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011.</i></p>	<p>Agreed by 48 votes to 3, with 8 abstentions.</p>	<p>HLG (G. Watson)</p>
<p>12. Treasury Management Mid Term Review</p>		

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<p>The report sets out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of the financial year 2015/16 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report includes Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator monitoring and forecast interest receivable and payable for the financial year.</p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report.</p>	<p>Agreed (nem con)</p>	<p>CFO (L)</p>
<p>13. Motion From Councillor Yvonne Constance</p> <p>“This Council regrets the withdrawal of bus subsidies from rural areas recognising the impact on the most isolated elderly residents. We note many responses to the bus subsidies consultation stated a willingness to pay for the Old Age Bus Pass. To raise important revenue for this most essential transport.</p> <p>This Council urges Government to permit Councils to charge an annual flat-rate fee, in the same way as we purchase a Senior Rail Pass on those pensioners who can afford to pay.”</p>	<p>With the agreement of Council, Councillor Constance withdrew her Motion.</p>	
<p>14. Motion From Councillor Richard Webber</p> <p>“Oxfordshire is one of the wealthiest counties in the UK. Unemployment is amongst the lowest; business growth, incomes and house prices are amongst the highest. Housing demand and future housing growth ensures that Oxfordshire will be a leader in driving the future of the UK economy.</p> <p>The need for infrastructure to support this growth becomes ever more important. Much of the cost of that infrastructure falls to the County Council, and yet the Council finds itself increasingly cash-strapped with the lack of infrastructure ever more acute.</p>	<p>Lost by 47 votes to 8, with 4 abstentions.</p>	

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<p>So if there is so much money flowing in the County's economy and little of it is in the hands of the Council, in whose hands or pockets is it?</p> <p>This Council has a great team of officers – experts in social care, in education, in roads and transport, in planning and so on, but it has few expert officers whose specific skills are in commerce.</p> <p>In order to join and benefit from the thriving economy on its doorstep, Council requests that Cabinet, as part of the budget process, urgently considers investing in a small team of experts to oversee all the commercial activities of the Council. A team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) to help departments draw up, ensure best value and monitor contracts; (ii) to develop a trading arm of the Council; (iii) to sell the skills and services it already provides on the open market; (iv) and to seek out all opportunities for income generation.” 		
<p>15. Motion From Councillor Nick Hards</p> <p>“Council recognises that, with the severe financial pressures which Council faces over the next five years, it is important that we make best use of our property assets. To assist in making timely and appropriate changes to our office accommodation particularly in Oxford, Council calls on the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Property to appoint a Cabinet Advisory Group to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) review the buildings which the 	<p>With the agreement of Council, Councillor Hards accepted the proposed amendment by Councillor Bartholomew as follows:</p> <p>“Council recognises that, with the severe financial pressures which Council faces over the next five years, it is important that we make best use of our property assets. To assist in making timely and appropriate changes to our office accommodation</p>	

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<p>council currently owns or leases in Oxford;</p> <p>(b) consider the present and future requirements of our office based staff;</p> <p>(c) explore the options for making the most cost effective way of using these buildings which we own or lease; and</p> <p>(d) make recommendations to Cabinet as to savings which could be made and income which could be generated from our property.”</p>	<p>particularly in Oxford, Council calls on the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Property to appoint a Cabinet Advisory Group to Council calls on the Cabinet Advisory Group for Income Generation in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Property to set up a task & finish group to produce an interim report by June 2016 which :</p> <p>(a) review the buildings which the council currently owns or leases in Oxford;</p> <p>(b) consider the present and future requirements of our office based staff;</p> <p>(c) explore the options for making the most cost effective way of using these buildings which we own or lease; and</p> <p>(d) make recommendations to Cabinet as to savings which could be made and income which could be generated from our property.”</p> <p>The Motion as amended was Agreed (unanimous).</p>	<p>CPO (M. Scott)</p>
<p>16. Motion From Councillor Jean Fooks</p> <p>“Council notes that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • corporate tax evasion and avoidance are having a damaging impact on the world’s poorest countries, to such a level that it is costing them far more than they receive in aid • this is costing the UK as much as £30bn a year • this practice also has a negative effect on small and medium-sized companies who pay more tax proportionately 	<p>With the agreement of Council, Councillor Fooks amended her own Motion as follows:</p> <p>“Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • corporate tax evasion and avoidance are having a damaging impact on the world’s poorest countries, to such a level that it is costing them far more than they receive in aid; • this is costing the UK as much as £30bn a year; 	

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<p>Council further notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that the UK Government has taken steps to tackle the issue of tax avoidance and evasion by issuing Procurement Policy Note 03/14, applying to all central government contracts worth more than £5m the availability of independent means of verifying tax compliance, such as the Fair Tax Mark <p>In early 2015 new regulations required public bodies, including councils, to ask procurement qualification questions of all companies for tenders over £173,000 for service contracts and £4m for works contracts. However, these questions are not as detailed as the PPN 03/14.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council believes that bidders for Council contracts should be asked to account for their past tax record, using the standards in PPN 03/14, rather than the lower standards in the recent regulations.</p> <p>Council therefore calls upon Cabinet to amend procurement procedures to require all companies bidding for council contracts to self-certify that they are fully tax-compliant in line with central government practice, using the standards in PPN 03/14, for service contracts over £173,000 and works contracts over £4m.</p> <p>Cabinet to publicise this policy and to report on its implementation annually for the next three years.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> this practice also has a negative effect on small and medium-sized companies who pay more tax proportionately. <p>Council further notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that the UK Government has taken steps to tackle the issue of tax avoidance and evasion by issuing Procurement Policy Note 03/14, applying to all central government contracts worth more than £5m; the availability of independent means of verifying tax compliance, such as the Fair Tax Mark. <p>In early 2015 new regulations required public bodies, including councils, to ask procurement qualification questions of all companies for tenders over £173,000 for service contracts and £4m for works contracts. However, these questions are not as detailed as the PPN 03/14.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council This Council believes that bidders for Council contracts should be asked to account for their past tax record, using the standards in PPN 03/14, rather than the lower standards in the recent regulations.</p> <p>Council therefore calls upon Cabinet to amend procurement procedures to require all companies bidding for council contracts to self-certify that they are fully tax-compliant in line with central government practice, using the standards in PPN 03/14, for service contracts over £173,000 and works contracts over £4m.</p> <p>Cabinet to publicise this policy and to report on its implementation annually</p>	

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	<p>for the next three years.”</p> <p>Lost by 30 votes to 28, with 1 abstention.</p>	
<p>17. Motion From Councillor David Williams</p> <p>“This Council is concerned at the proposed cuts in the grant aid to the Police Service that is being proposed by the Rt. Honourable George Osborne MP and the effect this will have on policing in the Thames Valley Authority and its corresponding impact on Oxfordshire County Council services. The County Council backs the legal bid being organised by 8 Police and Crime Commissioners to challenge the proposed reduction which it is estimated will mean cuts of at least £5million per year on the local force until 2020 and will probably mean the withdrawal of many non-statutory specialist services working in cooperation with the County Council such as the Child Sex Abuse Unit.</p> <p>The County Council requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Home Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer with the Councils views and to provide supportive letters to the Police and Crime Commissioners who have bravely opposed the government on this issue.”</p>	<p>With the agreement of Council, Councillor Williams withdrew his Motion.</p>	
<p>18. Motion From Councillor Sam Coates</p> <p>“Oxfordshire County Council is concerned that in order to recruit and retain staff with the range of skills and experience required to maintain the quality of service that is expected there is a need to recognise that with the escalating cost of living in Oxfordshire, especially housing, it will be necessary to pay as a minimum wage the London Allowance accepted now as a minimum of £9.40 per hour.</p>	<p>With the consent of Council, Councillor Sam Coates amended his own motion as follows:</p> <p>“Oxfordshire County Council is concerned that in order to recruit and retain staff with the range of skills and experience required to maintain the quality of service that is expected there is a need to recognise that with</p>	

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<p>The County Council with its Living Wage policy has established a basic rate per hour, but now is the time to accept that costs have been increasing at such a rate and public sector wage rises held down for so long that a London weighting is required if we are to retain the quality of our workforce. Although affecting only a small number of staff, taking the London Living wage minimum will be recognition that living in the County is on a par with living costs in the capital and will illustrate to Government that public services in Oxfordshire, economic powerhouse that it is, must be funded at wage levels that reflect London salaries.</p> <p>The Council asks the Cabinet that the small additional costs of this symbolic policy being adopted to be incorporated into the calculations at present being configured for the proposed budget for 2016 -2017."</p>	<p>the escalating cost of living in Oxfordshire, especially housing, it will be necessary to pay as a minimum wage the London Allowance accepted now as a minimum of £9.40 per hour.</p> <p>The County Council with its Living Wage policy has established a basic rate per hour, but now is the time to accept that costs have been increasing at such a rate and public sector wage rises held down for so long that a London weighting is required if we are to retain the quality of our workforce staff and take their welfare seriously. Although affecting only a small number of staff, taking the London Living wage minimum will be recognition that living in the County is on a par with living costs in the capital and will illustrate to Government that public services in Oxfordshire, economic powerhouse that it is, must be funded at wage levels that reflect London salaries the cost of living.</p> <p>The Council asks the Cabinet that the small additional costs of this symbolic policy being adopted to be incorporated into the calculations at present being configured for the proposed budget for 2016 -2017."</p> <p>The Council also asks the Cabinet to investigate an Oxfordshire Living Wage Commission to encourage local businesses and Council contractors to pay at the London Living Wage level.</p> <p>Lost by 33 votes to 2, with 24 abstentions.</p>	

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<p>19. Motion From Councillor David Williams</p> <p>“This Council is concerned that full weight is not being given during School Admission procedure and especially during Appeal Panels to the medical evidence presented at the hearing related to the physical and mental condition of the parents of the child who is the subject of the appeal. Clearly the present guidance is focused on the direct wellbeing of the child but domestic circumstances such as a registered disabled parents put under stress or unable to cope by the decision to refuse a place must be taken into account for that too can have an influence on the child’s future happiness.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families is requested to write on behalf of the Council to the Secretary of State for Education to seek a review of the Code of Practice on School Admissions considered by the Admission Authorities and Independent School Admission Appeal Panels and to make changes to the Code which addresses the Council’s concern to ensure more emphasis is placed on parental disability”</p>	<p>With the agreement of Council, Councillor Williams accepted the proposed amendment by Councillor Howson as follows:</p> <p>“This Council is concerned that full weight is not being given during School Admission procedure and especially during Appeal Panels to the medical evidence presented at the hearing related to the physical and mental condition of the parents of the child who is the subject of the appeal. Clearly the present guidance admission arrangements are is focused on the direct wellbeing of the child but domestic circumstances such as a registered disabled parents put under stress or unable to cope by the decision to refuse a place must be taken into account for that too can have an influence on the child’s future happiness.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Families is requested to write on behalf of the Council to the Secretary of State for Education to seek a review of the Code of Practice on School Admissions considered by the Admission Authorities and Independent School Admission Appeal Panels and to make changes to the Code which addresses the Council’s concern to ensure more emphasis is placed on parental disability”</p> <p>Council Calls on the Cabinet to ensure that within the criteria listed in any admission arrangements that are the responsibility of Oxfordshire, any disability of one or both parents be added as a new</p>	

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	<p data-bbox="758 342 1313 450"><i>admissions criteria, to be considered before any distance related criteria are considered.”</i></p> <p data-bbox="758 488 1278 562">The Motion as amended was lost by 37 votes to 1, with 19 abstentions.</p>	

