

# **County Council**

**20 May 2025**

**Annual Council**

**Agenda**

To: **Members of the County COUNCIL**

***Notice of a Meeting of the County Council***

**Tuesday, 20 May 2025 at 10.30 am**

**Council Chamber - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND**

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this [Live Stream Link](#). Please note, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.



Martin Reeves  
Chief Executive

May 2025

Committee Officer: **Democratic Services**  
E-mail: [CommitteesDemocraticServices@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:CommitteesDemocraticServices@Oxfordshire.gov.uk)

---

# AGENDA

1. **Election of Chair for the 2025/26 Council Year**
2. **Election of Vice-Chair for the 2025/26 Council Year**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2025 (**CC1**) and to receive information arising from them.

4. **Apologies for Absence**
5. **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.

6. **Official Communications**
7. **Returning Officer's Report** (Pages 15 - 18)

**Council is RECOMMENDED to note the return of persons elected as Councillors for Oxfordshire County Council on 1 May 2025.**

8. **Appointments**

Members are asked to:

- (a) elect the Leader of the Council;
- (b) note the names, addresses and electoral divisions of the people appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader of the Council for the coming year and their respective portfolios; and
- (c) note the Office of the Leader of the Opposition.

9. **Committees and Review of Political Balance** (To Follow)

The Council is required by the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 to review the

political balance on its committees after an election.

#### **10. Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Pages 19 - 62)**

At its Annual Meeting, Council is required to agree the officer scheme of delegation within the Council's Constitution.

**COUNCIL IS RECOMMENDED to amend the Constitution as follows:**

- a) approve amendments to Part 7.1: Officers as shown in Annex 1 ;**
- b) approve amendments to Part 7.2: Scheme of Delegation to Officers as shown in Annex 3.**

#### **11. General Dispensations (Pages 63 - 68)**

To approve a number of general dispensations under the Localism Act 2011.

**The Council is RECOMMENDED to**

- a) approve, under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, the general dispensations, listed at paragraph 5 of this report, for all elected and co-opted voting Members of Oxfordshire County Council;**
- b) agree that those general dispensations should remain in force for a period of four years;**
- c) agree that the granting of individual dispensations under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Code of Conduct remains delegated to the Monitoring Officer**

#### **12. Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee (Pages 69 - 80)**

The Annual Report sets out the role of the Audit & Governance Committee and summarises the work that has been undertaken both as a Committee and through the support of the Audit Working Group in 2024/25.

**The Council is RECOMMENDED to note the contents of the Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee 2024/25.**

#### **13. Committee Meeting Dates for information (Pages 81 - 82)**

Provided here for information. The original calendar of dates was decided at the Council meeting on 5 November 2024. A number of committees have made changes since which are highlighted.

### **APPOINTMENTS OF CHAIRS AND DEPUTY CHAIRS OF THE COMMITTEES**

- At the conclusion of the Council's proceedings all members are asked to remain in their seats in the Council Chamber while Committees meet for the purpose of electing their chairs and deputy chairs;
- The Monitoring Officer will ask the members on each committee to stand in turn and the relevant members are asked to stand/sit as appropriate:
  - Audit & Governance Committee
  - Charlotte Coxe Trust Committee
  - Education & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
  - People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
  - Pension Fund Committee
  - Performance and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
  - Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee
  - Planning & Regulation Committee
  - Remuneration Committee
- The Monitoring Officer will seek nominations for Chair;
- The Chair of each Committee will seek nominations for Deputy Chair.

**IT IS ALSO PROPOSED TO TAKE A GROUP PHOTOGRAPH OF COUNCILLORS IN THE COMMON HALL FOLLOWING THESE ELECTIONS.**

## **Councillors declaring interests**

### **General duty**

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed 'Declarations of Interest' or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

### **What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?**

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (i.e. payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

### **Declaring an interest**

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

### **Members' Code of Conduct and public perception**

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member 'must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself' and that 'you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned'.

### **Members Code – Other registrable interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your other registerable interests then you must declare an interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person's quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

Other registrable interests include:

- a) Any unpaid directorships
- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority.

- c) Any body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

### **Members Code – Non-registrable interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.