

County Council

10 December 2013

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 Rachel Dunn on (01865) 815279 or Rachel.dunn@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, 10 December 2013 at 10.00 am

County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND

Joanna Simons

Joanna Simons
Chief Executive

November 2013

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 - 28)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2013 (**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. **Treasury Management Mid-Term Review (2012/13) (Pages 29 - 42)**

Report by Chief Finance Officer (**CC9**).

The report sets out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of the financial year 2013/14 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report includes Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator monitoring, changes in Strategy, and forecast interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

The Audit & Governance Committee considered the report at its meeting on Wednesday 20 November and noted with concern Investec's performance and that Investec's annualised return for the first six months of the year was 0.00% compared with a benchmark of 1.59%, and **RECOMMENDED** the Performance Scrutiny Committee to consider the matter further and Cabinet to note concerns in relation Investec's performance as noted in paragraph 29 in the Council's Mid-Term Treasury Management Review 2013/14.

Cabinet noted the report and the concern and action proposed by the Audit & Governance Committee and RECOMMENDED Council to note the Council's Mid-Term Treasury Management Review 2013/14.

10. **Report of the Cabinet (Pages 43 - 46)**

Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 26 November 2013 (**CC10**).

11. Location of Council Meeting - April 2014 (Pages 47 - 50)

Report by Director for Environment & Economy and County Solicitor & Head of Law & Culture (**CC11**).

In September, Council said it would welcome the opportunity to hold its April 2014 meeting at Bodicote House, Banbury. This is because the Council wishes to test out the webcasting capability at Bodicote House with a view to extending electronic access to County Council meetings in County Hall. Council asked for a feasibility study into the potential for this. This report provides that study and recommends that the trial take place.

Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) agree in principle to hold its April 2014 meeting at Bodicote House, Banbury;***
- (b) ask the County Solicitor & Head of Law and Culture and the Director for Environment & Economy to make the necessary arrangements with Cherwell District Council for holding the meeting at Bodicote House and to liaise with the Chairman of the Council and with Group Leaders to finalise these.***

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

12. Motion From Councillor Susanna Pressel

“Congestion in Oxford City is getting worse by the day. This has a negative impact on quality of life, health, economic development and many other aspects of life for the people of Oxfordshire and our many visitors.

Given the historic value and compact nature of the City and the constraints on the availability of public sector funds there are limited opportunities to tackle congestion without a adopting a different approach. Council therefore requests Cabinet to investigate urgently how we can consult the people of our county on moving towards charging for workplace parking in Oxford City as speedily as possible, and to report back to the next Council meeting on progress towards this.”

13. Motion From Councillor Kieron Mallon

“That this Council notes that it is estimated that up to 66,000 women and young girls in the UK have undergone Female Genital Mutilation, of this number 20,000 are under the age of 15. We further note that these procedures have no health benefits and is a harmful traditional practice and an act of violence against women and girls, constitutes a violation of their fundamental rights, particularly the right to personal security, physical and mental health and of their sexual and reproductive health and is an act of child

abuse. Such violations can under no circumstances be justified by respect for cultural or religious traditions or initiation ceremonies.

To date, there has not been a single prosecution for this in 28 years within the UK for those responsible for perpetrating this horrific crime as opposed to a more proactive approach in France.

Council asks the Director for Children's Services to ensure all health and social care professionals in Oxfordshire including midwives, obstetricians, nurses, social workers, community workers, police, Crown Prosecution Service and policy makers work together to identify women and young girls who are at risk and to work in partnership to take effective action to bring to and end this barbaric practice."

14. Motion From Councillor Janet Godden

"Council notes that time pressures at its meeting on 5 November meant that it was unable to debate the motion at Agenda Item 17, which proposed asking the Leader to invite the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to attend an additional 'Talking Oxfordshire' event about the impact of further cuts to services in Oxfordshire, with a randomly chosen audience from across the County.

Despite subsequent media coverage of exchanges between the Leader and the Secretary of State, Council remains unconvinced that the Department for Communities and Local Government has a full understanding either of the of the Council's current financial situation or of the local consequences of the cuts that will result from the additional reductions in revenue.

Council therefore asks the Leader to write to the Secretary of State inviting him to come to Oxfordshire and meet with key workers and local members as first proposed, and to invite his parliamentary colleagues among the County's MPs to meetings in their own constituencies for the same purpose."

15. Motion From Councillor David Williams

"There is mounting concern as to the likely impact on the environment of Oxfordshire in relation to hydraulic fracturing of natural gas and oil, the system popularly known as 'fracking'.

The Council considers that the potential scale of environmental damage would place a severe strain on County Environmental services and will have immediate consequences on other County services whilst drilling operations are in hand. Of special concern is the potential release of carcinogenic Radon gas from pockets locked in the Oxfordshire geology.

The County Council is also aware that the release of climate changing gases such as methane and carbon dioxide that will result from the extraction of more fossil fuels will contradict the Councils commitment to moving to a local low carbon economy.

With potential drilling sites all over the County this Council asks its Planning & Regulation Committee to have regard to these concerns in dealing with any application

to issue a license to conduct exploratory drilling or to undertake full scale extraction production”.

16. Motion From Councillor David Williams

“This Council notes with concern the Davies Commission’s invitation for invitations to submit proposals for additional airport capacity within the South East and the potential implications for Oxfordshire.

Oxfordshire County Council is dismayed that a consultation and bids for greater airport capacity is being considered again even though only 3 years ago the Conservative party were arguing that there would be no need for greater capacity in the London area and therefore they would not back expansion at Heathrow. (Conservative Manifesto 2010 General Election)

The Council believes that any airport close to the already existing landing systems of Brize Norton and London Oxford Airport is unnecessary and would bring greater pollution and disturbance to the area.

Such a proposal would run counter to all the County Council’s planning policies to date, meaning dramatic changes to assumptions made for transport, housing, environmental control, and economic planning. All County services would be directly affected from education to adult care to wildlife protection.

Oxfordshire County Council urges Cabinet in any consultation response to resist demands for ever more airport expansion because of the carbon burning consequences such proposals generate and to turn down any proposal for an Oxfordshire Airport as unsuitable to the needs of the County and the Country as a whole.”

17. Motion From Councillor Glynis Phillips

“This Council is very concerned about the deterioration to the road surface on London Road, Headington, Oxford and therefore calls on the Cabinet to reconsider its road maintenance priorities in order to expedite necessary repairs there.”

18. Motion From Councillor John Tanner

“The residents of much of Blackbird Leys and Littlemore in Oxford have a partial residents’ parking scheme which only operates when football matches are played at the Kassam Stadium and when car-boot sales are held there. The football matches parking scheme works well and keeps supporters’ cars from flooding the area. But the car-boot sales scheme is unnecessary and only leads to local residents, their relatives and friends, being fined for parking.

We call on the Cabinet to re-examine the parking needs of the Blackbird Leys and Littlemore areas with a view to lifting the parking controls for car-boot sales.”

19. Motion From Councillor Arash Fatemian

“Council is surprised to note that Oxford City Council has refused to sign the Local Contribution Legal Agreement to contribute funding towards the proposed East-West Rail project (OCC Cabinet Meeting, 15/10/2013 and Oxford Mail 11/11/2013). Given that all other authorities along the route recognise the importance of such a development for economic growth and prosperity, this Council notes with disappointment that Oxford City Council have chosen not to contribute.

The apparent reason given for non-contribution was that the City Council “see this is a project where the benefits for the city will be limited economically” (Oxford Mail, 11/11/2013)

Given that:

- The Oxfordshire LEP has stated that congestion into and around the City represents the biggest threat to growth in and around Oxford and that this will start damaging the local economy unless something is done and;
- That the new proposed East-West rail link will significantly improve congestion in and around Oxford by taking at least 200 lorries an hour off the ring road and offering a fast train service from Water Eaton to Oxford

It would appear that there are indeed very significant benefits for Oxford City from East-West Rail.

As such, Council asks the Leader to write to the City Council expressing this authorities' disappointment, sadness, and regret that Oxford City Council have failed to recognise the obvious benefits such a scheme will bring to the residents of Oxford and the obvious Economic impact on the city as a whole and to invite the City Council to reconsider a short-sighted and ill-considered position.”
