

County Council

10 September 2019

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 **07776 997946** 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, 10 September 2019 at 10.30 am

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



Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

August 2019

Committee Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: 07920 084239; 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 8 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 9 July 2019 (**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 - 38)

Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 16 July 2019 (**CC9**).

10. Investment Strategy (Pages 39 - 52)

Report by the Director for Property, Investment and Facilities Management & Director of Finance (**CC10**).

In line with revised statutory guidance (April 2018) the Council is formally required to have a Capital & Investment Strategy in place. This was approved by Council in Feb 2019. This overarching strategy includes the Treasury Management Strategy and makes reference to the development of an Investment Strategy, which will form a sub-section of that strategy, and requires Council approval.

The strategy sets out a new investment framework, under which the Council can undertake investments against the following broad categories:

- investments in property funds, bond funds, equities and multi asset classes;
- maximising the use of and value of our own assets (land & buildings);
- acquisitions & investments, which derive a service outcome or Council priority, and which generate a commercial return;
- investments for policy, social, community benefits.

Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the Investment Strategy document. The text from this document, will become a sub-section of the overall Capital & Investment Strategy.

11. Treasury Management 2018/19 Outturn (Pages 53 - 70)

Report by Director of Finance (**CC11**).

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) 'Code of Practice on Treasury Management (Revised) 2009' requires that the Council and Audit & Governance Committee receives an updated report on Treasury Management activities at least twice per year. This report is the second report for the financial year 2018/19 and sets out the position as at 31 March 2019. The report will be also considered by Audit and Governance committee on 17 July.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2018/19.

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 by Councillor Liz Brighouse

"This Council is concerned that Local Government in general and Oxfordshire in particular may have to make further cuts in staff and services for the most vulnerable people as result of an emergency Spending Review which is required to fund Brexit.

The Leader is asked to write to the PM and Chancellor:

- Expressing the Councils deep concern about the impact of further cuts and in particular the impact of a one-year ad hoc Spending Review.
- Telling them of the Transition Program which Oxfordshire has funded in order to ensure future stability and of the Innovative Partnership which has been established to make Service Delivery more efficient and effective.
- That this work undertaken by Oxfordshire could be seriously damaged given that Local Government has already suffered crippling austerity cuts and now needs stability."

13. Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves

"This Council welcomes the additional investment from government ('DfT') in our highways, which amounts to:

1. £10,000,000.00 in the financial year 2018/19; and
2. a further £15,000,000.00 in 2019/20.

This Council notes that the additional monies from the Highways Maintenance and Integrated Transport Block monies make Oxfordshire one of the most heavily invested counties in the South of England with only significantly larger counties such as Hampshire and Kent receiving markedly more funding in recent years.

This Council further notes the success of its internal and prudential borrowing policy, which is already yielding welcome improvements to roads across Oxfordshire.

This Council resolves to:

1. review ways in which non-ringfenced DfT funds can be leveraged alongside s. 106 and Councillors' Priority Fund ('CPF') monies with a view to improving roads and school crossings where there is demonstrable need;
2. consider extending the date for allocating any unspent CPF monies beyond January 2020 where members are in discussions with officers regarding complementary s. 106 monies that may be used to generate more comprehensive solutions and said officers are in need of more time; and

review traffic congestion management arrangements in our market towns with a view to working with both District partners and Thames Valley Police to explore opportunities for decriminalised parking and residents' parking schemes in areas of acute need."

14. Motion from Councillor Deborah McIlveen

"Living costs in Oxfordshire are high and pay is relatively low. High housing costs mean that employers in the public and private sectors struggle to recruit and retain staff. There are vacancies in all areas of the public sector and this is affecting service delivery. Housing costs in Oxfordshire have risen at a similar rate to those in London where workers in the Public Sector are paid a London Living Wage of £10.55 per hour.

Paying a Local Living Wage will enable people to take up job opportunities in Oxfordshire and according to employers would

- improve staff's quality of work;
- decrease Absenteeism;
- with better retention lower human resources costs.

It enables people to live on their wages and reduces in work benefits via Universal Credit. Paying the local Living Wage increases investment in the local economy.

Oxfordshire County Council asks the Cabinet to set up a working group with health partners and the Oxfordshire System Workforce Group to investigate implementation of a Living Wage in Oxfordshire."

15. Motion by Councillor Lynda Atkins

“The way in which the County Council governs itself is a subject which should be carefully considered and regularly reviewed. The selection of our Chairman and Vice-Chairman is particularly important, as we all rely on the Councillor in the Chair to bring at least some semblance of order and civility to all our proceedings, and to help us get our job as a Council done.

The current arrangements for the selection of Chairman and Vice Chairman, involving rotation of the posts between the 3 main political groups, have currently been in place for 6 years (having been set up many years ago, with a 4-year interregnum between 2009 and 2013) and so the time is right for us to consider whether they work well or could perhaps be improved.

Council asks the Leader of the Council to set up a cross-party group to look at how our Chairman and Vice-Chairman are selected, and if necessary, to make recommendations to the Council for change, bearing in mind that any choice is always subject to the overriding requirement for the Council to accept any nomination.”

16. Motion by Councillor David Bartholomew

“Reading Borough Council is proposing to build a vast new bridge to alleviate Reading’s traffic problems. It is included in their Draft Local Plan as a top priority. The bridge would take off at the Thames Valley business park near Reading and land near Playhatch in Oxfordshire. The only onwards option for traffic would be through the congested streets of Henley or along the narrow B481 country road through Oxfordshire villages.

Reading and the other Berkshire councils supporting the scheme are focusing almost entirely on the costs of building the bridge and the benefits it will bring to Reading. They recognise that the bridge would have a substantial impact on the Oxfordshire road network, but blithely state this will be dealt with by unspecified and uncoded ‘mitigation measures’.

This council calls on the Leader to write to council leaders at Reading, Wokingham and Bracknell, plus MPs John Howell, John Redwood, Matt Rodda and Theresa May, stating that:

a) In the context of the Climate Emergency a car-based solution to a car-based problem that would pour thousands of cars and HGVs into Oxfordshire is totally inappropriate and should a new bridge be built it should be restricted to public transport, cyclists and pedestrians;

b) Notwithstanding the above, if a car-based solution is pursued, the bridge and necessary mitigation measures (i.e. improvements to the Oxfordshire road network) must not be considered as two separate projects, but as one project so that the benefits, disadvantages and costs of the scheme can be holistically assessed.”

17. Motion by Councillor Neville Harris

“Council are delighted to note that the Oxfordshire Charity “Children Heard and Seen ” were amongst the 2019 recipients of The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service.

The Council further note that:

The Charity's work minimises the effects of parental imprisonment on young people through mentoring, group working and other interventions. Just listening to the thoughts of these young people promises benefit; realising they are not alone in facing problems is often pivotal.

Annually c312,000 children lose a parent to custody in England and Wales, c17,000 following the imprisonment of mothers. The Ministry of Justice advise that 65% of boys with a convicted parent go on to offend themselves.

The Charity's services are mainly reactive, identifying and encouraging children to take part is difficult and time consuming. Developing and fulfilling individual potential, seeking to reduce intergenerational crime and cut parent re-offending, this work impacts positively in Oxfordshire. Over 160 young people are on projects at present, c500 have participated since the Charity's formation in 2014. Commercial sector and grant foundation, purpose specific, funding and c40 volunteers make this endeavour possible.

I move that the Council agrees that:

it recognises, "Children Heard and Seen", as vital community initiative originating in Oxfordshire. It further agrees to invite, the Charity to prepare a brief written report on its work, needs and aspirations and to present this report to a meeting of the Council's Performance Review Scrutiny Committee and/or to such other Committee the Council may decide appropriate.”

18. Motion by Councillor John Sanders

“Given the inadequate response from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government to the concern of this Council regarding the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway this Council asks the Leader to write to MHCLG and Highways England in the following terms:

Oxfordshire County Council will work with Highways England on the development of the vision for the English Economic Heartland and the Oxford to Cambridge Arc on the understanding that they will expedite the realisation of the East West Rail Link.

The development of the railway line will ensure the delivery of the growth and housing required without the environmental impact of a road cutting across the centre of rural England.

Building the Expressway flies in the face of Oxfordshires commitment to reduce the use of the car. An action which is necessary to tackle the Climate Change Emergency which Local Government, including Oxfordshire, has signed up to.

Oxfordshire does not support the building of the Expressway irrespective of which route is chosen.”

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 9 September 2019 at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders