

# County Council

8 December 2020

## Agenda

*If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this [live stream link](#).  
However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.*

## 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](mailto: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, 8 December 2020 at 10.00 am**

**Virtual**



Yvonne Rees  
Chief Executive

November 2020

Committee Officer: **Deborah Miller**  
Tel: 07920 084239; E-Mail: [deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

*Due to the current guidelines regarding social distancing this meeting of the County Council will be held remotely. Normally requests to speak at a public meeting are requested by 9 am on the preceding day to the published date of a meeting. However, during the current situation and to facilitate these new arrangements we are asking that requests to speak are submitted by 9am four working days before the meeting i.e. 9 am on Wednesday 2 December together with a transcript of your presentation emailed to [deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk)*

*If you wish to view proceedings, please click on the live stream link on the front page of the Agenda. However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.*

*In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that this meeting 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.*

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## **AGENDA**

### **1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 46)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2020 (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**

*This Council meeting will be held virtually in order to conform with current guidelines regarding social distancing. Normally requests to speak at this public meeting are required by 9 am on the day preceding the published date of the meeting. However, during the current situation and to facilitate these new arrangements we are asking that requests to speak are submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting i.e. 9 am on 2 December 2020. Requests to speak should be sent to [Deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk) together with a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the technology fails then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9 am 2 working days before the meeting.*

*Where a meeting is held virtually and the addressee is unable to participate virtually their written submission will be accepted.*

*Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.*

## **7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public**

## **8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council**

## **9. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 47 - 48)**

Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 17 November 2020 (CC9).

## 10. Treasury Management Mid-Term Review (2020/21) (Pages 49 - 68)

Report by Director of Finance (**CC10**).

The report sets out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of the financial year 2020/21 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.

***Council is RECOMMENDED to note the Council's Mid-Term Treasury Management Review 2020/21.***

## 11. Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Member's Allowances (Pages 69 - 96)

Report by the Corporate Director - Commercial Development, Assets & Investment and Monitoring Officer (**CC11**).

This report presents the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel following a recent full review of the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme.

The Council had asked that a review be undertaken during this Autumn to help shape a Scheme of Allowances to apply from 1 April 2020. The last full review of the allowances agreed by Members was in December 2014. The Independent Remuneration Panel have now met and are recommending some changes to the Scheme as set out in the report.

***The Council is RECOMMENDED to consider the following recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel and in so doing agree a Scheme of Allowances:***

1. ***that the Basic Allowance payable to all councillors increase from £11,014 to £12,000 per annum;***
2. ***that, in addition to the Basic Allowance, a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) be paid as follows:-***
  - a. ***Leader of the Council – raise to three times the Basic Allowance: £36,000***
  - b. ***Deputy Leader of the Council – keep at twice the Basic Allowance: £24,000***
  - c. ***Cabinet Members – keep at 1.6 times the Basic Allowance: £19,200***
  - d. ***Leader of the Opposition – increase to 1 times the Basic Allowance: £12,000***
  - e. ***Shadow Cabinet – keep at 0.25 times the Basic Allowance: £3,000***
  - f. ***Chairs of Scrutiny Committees (Performance, Education) – keep at 0.6 times the Basic Allowance: £7,200***
  - g. ***Chair of the Planning and Regulation Committee – keep at 0.6 times the Basic Allowance: £7,200***
  - h. ***Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee – keep at 0.6 times the Basic allowance: £7,200***

- i. **Chair of the Pension Fund Committee – keep at 0.6 times the Basic allowance: £7,200**
  - j. **Chair of the Remuneration Committee – no allowance**
  - k. **Chairman of the Council – keep at 0.85 times the Basic Allowance: £10,200**
  - l. **Vice-Chairman of the Council – keep at 0.25 times the Chair's Allowance: £2,550**
  - m. **Third Party Leader – no allowance but review in 2021/22**
  - n. **Locality Meeting Chairman – increase from 0.05 to 0.10 times the Basic Allowance: £1,200**
  - o. **Police and Crime Panel Member – no allowance**
  - p. **Police and Crime Panel Chairman – keep at 0.6 times the Basic Allowance: £7,200 but invite the Council to review with the Police and Crime Panel members the principle as to whether all authorities should contribute to this cost**
  - q. **Police and Crime Panel Vice-Chairman – no allowance**
  - r. **Chair of the Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – keep at 0.6 times the Basic Allowance: £7,200**
  - s. **Chair of the Horton Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee - keep at 0.45 times the Basic Allowance: £5,400**
  - t. **Adoption & Fostering Panels – introduce an allowance for member attendance at each of £100 per Panel with a cap of £1,200 per year.**
3. **a cap be introduced such that no individual member of the Council should be entitled to receive more than two Special Responsibility Allowances at any one time;**
  4. **a Co-optees' Allowance continues to be payable to an independent co-opted member of the Audit & Governance Committee when the co-opted member serves as Chairman of the Audit Working Group, equivalent to Committee/Scrutiny Committee Chair: £7,200;**
  5. **the Council's Basic and Special Responsibility Allowances and the Co-optees' Allowance to the Chairman of the Audit Working Group be amended annually by reference to the annual Local Government Pay Award for staff and that this should take effect from the date on which the award for staff similarly takes effect; however, if the above increases are agreed, the pay award should not be applied to any increased allowances in 2021/22 but from 2022/23;**
  6. **that Child and Dependant Carer's Allowances be increased:-**
    - a. **Child Care: the hourly rate is equivalent to the Oxford Living Wage, capped at £1,200 per year, payable on production of receipts**
    - b. **Dependent Carer: the hourly rate is twice the Oxford Living Wage capped at £2,400 per year, payable on production of receipts;**
  7. **the Council retains, for members, the travel and subsistence scheme that is applicable to officers. Overnight accommodation to be booked by officers where possible; when alternative accommodation arrangements are to be used, this should be approved by the relevant officer.**
  8. **the amounts for Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Co-optees' Allowances be rounded to the nearest pound when first set.**
- 2) **If Council does not wish to accept the Panel's recommendations at this time, in whole or in part, Council is RECOMMENDED to agree a status quo Scheme of Allowances for 2021/22 for any unchanged aspect with the**

***proviso that the newly elected Council after May 2021 is asked to revisit the matter during the 2021/22 Council Year.***

## **12. BOB Joint Health Scrutiny & Overview Committee (Pages 97 - 104)**

Report by Corporate Director of Commercial Development, Assets and Investment and Monitoring Officer (**CC12**).

The report outlines changes to delegation of health scrutiny powers for a new Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) covering the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West footprint. The changes seek to ensure health scrutiny occurs at an appropriate scale.

***Subject to agreement by the other relevant local authorities; Council is RECOMMENDED to agree the Terms of Reference (in Annex 1) for delegation of health scrutiny powers to Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee across the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West geography to allow of health issues at a system level.***

## **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 by Councillor Michael Waine**

“Council notes with Concern the decision by HM Treasury to bring to an end VAT-free shopping for the majority of goods from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 unless said goods are posted to the buyer’s Home address abroad.

Whilst Council recognises that Brexit will present many challenges, the need for levelling up across the Country as highlighted by the treasury, and the need to ensure such schemes are appropriately used, Council feels that the approach adopted is akin to the proverbial ‘Sledgehammer to crack a nut’.

Council believes the best way to achieve the ‘Levelling up’ agenda is by increasing economic performance in other areas, not harming or penalising existing well performing areas.

In particular Council is concerned of the impact this measure will have on Bicester Village and the wider economy and local jobs supported, but also the knock-on effect to wider tourist attractions and businesses whom rely on visitors who make Bicester just one step of an itinerary around Oxfordshire and who may choose not to do so if the cost of shopping is now 20% more expensive.

Council calls on the Leader and Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the

Exchequer and all the local Members of Parliament opposing such as move and asking them to reconsider or allow exceptions, given the likely detrimental effect this will have on the Oxfordshire Economy.”

#### **14. Motion by Councillor Emma Turnbull**

“This Council notes that:

- Many young people from disadvantaged backgrounds undertake apprenticeships. They are more likely to be in apprenticeships at lower levels, be paid lower salaries, and work at smaller companies.
- Due to the economic impact of Covid-19, employers are unlikely to be recruiting apprentices in the numbers we have seen recently, meaning there will be fewer apprenticeship vacancies available for young people to access and more competition for the fewer opportunities.
- New apprenticeships in Oxfordshire are already down by 30-60% on last year, depending on the sector, and are likely to drop significantly further.
- A rising number of Oxfordshire’s young people are not in education, employment or training.
- With young people unable to access face-to-face career guidance, networking events or work experience opportunities it will be harder for disadvantaged young people to access high quality information and skills needed to secure an apprenticeship or job.

This Council resolves to:

- ensure all careers advice for young people produced by this Council is fully accessible online and has a particular focus on those from disadvantaged backgrounds and ask OxLEP and other partners to do the same.
- facilitate a post-16 study and training fund to seek financial support for young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds by inviting contributions from county councillor’s priority fund and partner organisations.
- ask the Leader and Chief Executive to write to central government recommending that social mobility and widening opportunity should be an explicit criterion in a review of the Apprenticeship Levy.”

#### **15. Motion by Councillor Jane Hanna**

“The increasing powers of non-elected decision makers is impacting negatively on Oxfordshire’s population.

Buckingham, Oxfordshire and West Integrated Care System (BOB) is an exemplar. A local pilot for an Oxfordshire Population Health and Care Needs Framework has stalled since February awaiting a review by BOB under national instruction. It marks an early test case of the value placed on local communities across Oxfordshire by non-elected agencies.

The pilot in OX12 targeted a population of over 27,000. The local community endured the loss of a GP practice, a vibrant community hospital, with no delivery of infrastructure needed for 1000 new houses. A further 50% increase in housing is planned. There have been many excess deaths in recent months



disproportionately impacting care homes. A starting point for recovery would be a clear commitment to completing the population-based pilot with a plan acceptable locally. A successful completion of this pilot would ensure consideration of local communities by people making decisions who do not know our local communities, who are less effective in securing confidence, and are not accountable to the public.

Council calls on the leader to influence a positive commitment now within BOB to the OX12 pilot. In addition, we request that he send an open letter to the Prime Minister, the Select Committees for Health and Social Care, Housing, Communities and Local Government to urge the vital importance of safeguarding local democracy and scrutiny as non-elected decision-makers implement policy across Oxfordshire.”

## **16. Motion by Councillor Pete Sudbury**

“The Stockholm declaration, endorsed by the UK government in February this year, sets a framework to reduce road deaths and injuries by 50%: A critical measure is to:

*“...mandate a maximum road travel speed of 30 km/h in areas where vulnerable road users and vehicles mix in a frequent and planned manner, except where strong evidence exists that higher speeds are safe”*

The Spanish Government recently announced it will introduce this limit nationally. 20mph limits are popular with residents, make them feel safer, and increase walking and cycling.

Currently, 20mph limits are only put in place where average speeds are already at relatively safe levels (24mph). This is perverse and sends the wrong message to drivers about the dangers of speeding. Evidence says that simply introducing 20mph limits disproportionately slows those driving the fastest.

This County Council supports the premise that 20mph is the optimum speed limit in built-up areas and therefore:

1. Unless there is compelling evidence for a higher limit, newly adopted residential roads, and adopted highway in commercial areas leading to residential roads, will have 20mph limits or zone.
2. Parish, Town, City Councils will by default be supported in reducing speed limits in existing streets or areas on the basis of their local knowledge and the wishes of their residents, whilst taking note of national guidance. Where funding from any source is available, they will subsequently be supported to put in place necessary speed-calming measures to bring maximum and average speeds down to acceptable levels.”

## **17. Motion by Councillor Liz Leffman**

“On September 20<sup>th</sup>, an Early Day Motion, the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill, was tabled in the House of Commons. While the Government’s recent Ten Point Plan is an important step towards tackling the UK’s carbon emissions, this Bill recognises that our carbon footprint extends beyond the UK’s borders. The Bill calls

for:

- the UK to make and enact a serious plan to combat climate change. This means dealing with our real fair share of emissions so that we don't go over critical global rises in temperature.
- our entire carbon footprint be taken into account (in the UK and overseas).
- the protection and conservation of nature here and overseas along supply chains, recognising the damage we cause through the goods we consume.
- those in power not to depend on technology to save the day, which is used as an excuse to carry on polluting as usual.

Many Oxfordshire residents have made it clear through social media and by forming campaign groups that they want to see this Bill succeed. This Council agrees with the principles of this Bill and supports Oxfordshire residents in their efforts to see it come into law. This Council, our residents and all local bodies have a role in tackling climate change, and we therefore ask to Leader to urge Oxfordshire's MPs to support this Bill, in order to maximise opportunities for local authorities, communities and businesses to make a real difference in combating climate change and reducing global carbon emissions."

## 18. Motion by Arash Fatemian

"This Council welcomes recent funding awards for Active Travel measures, and the hard work undertaken by all to encourage greater levels of cycling and walking across the county, including but not limited to:

- The successes of attracting the Women's Tour
- Lasting improvements in cycling infrastructure
- The award of £2.9m from Tranche 2 of the Emergency Active Travel Fund vs our original allocation of £2.4m
- The award of £1.4m for cycling provision from OXLEP

More needs to be done to improve opportunities for cycling and walking. Oxfordshire is a diverse county with a rich mix of urban, suburban and rural communities. Some communities are better connected for cycling, walking, and other forms of transportation, while others are less so. No single policy will therefore suit all divisions.

As with other modes of transport, diversity of approach is needed. What works in cycling and walking for Banbury and its hilly surrounds will not necessarily suit the comparatively flatter and better-established commuter routes between Oxford, Abingdon and the Culham science park. A more consultative approach to policymaking is therefore needed to ensure more collaborative and effective policymaking.

Accordingly, this Council calls on the Leader to:

- (a) abolish the post of Cycling Champion; and
- (b) establish a cross-party, multi-locality Cabinet Advisory Group (CAG) for cycling and walking to better inform strategic decision-making making on cycling infrastructure;
- (c) ensure that this CAG directly influences the next LTP to ensure that the needs

of each locality and its cyclists and pedestrians are better served.”

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### **Pre-Meeting Briefing**

There will be a pre-meeting briefing on **Monday 7 December at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders