

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

If you have a query please contact Chris Reynolds (Tel: 07542 029441; E-Mail: chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

COUNTY COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 28 MARCH 2023

<i>RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AGENDA</i>	<i>DECISIONS</i>	<i>ACTION</i>
<p>1. Minutes</p> <p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2023 and to receive information arising from them.</p>	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2023 were approved as a correct record.</p>	
<p>2. Apologies for Absence</p>	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bulmer, Field-Johnson, Murphy and Thomas.</p>	<p>DLG (A Newman)</p>
<p>3. Official Communications</p>	<p>The Chair welcomed Councillor Trish Elphinstone (Rose Hill & Littlemore) and Martin Reeves, Chief Executive, to their first meeting of the Council.</p> <p>The Chair reported the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has won a gold award for its commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion at work, and has also secured a spot on Stonewall's Top 100 list which recognises exceptional employers who are committed to supporting their LGBTQ+ staff and customers. • Jamie Kavanagh of ICT Services secured 2nd place in the CS "Future Data Leader of the Year Awards. He was highly commended in a field of over 100 data professionals from across the UK. 	<p>DLG (C Reynolds)</p>

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<p>4. 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>Council noted the following appointments:-</p> <p>Cllr Elphinstone to be appointed to the vacancy on Audit and Governance Committee</p> <p>Cllr Elphinstone to replace Councillor Edosomwan on People Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Cllr Povolotsky to replace Cllr Gregory on People Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>Cllr Gregory to replace Cllr Povolotsky on Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p><u>Shadow Cabinet changes</u></p> <p>Cllr Fenton has replaced Cllr Bulmer, shadowing Cllr Hannaby, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Community Services and Safety</p> <p>Cllr Constance has replaced Cllr Fenton, shadowing Cllr Sudbury, Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery and Environment</p>	<p>DLG (A Newman)</p>
<p>5. Petitions and Public Address</p> <p><i>Members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection. To facilitate 'hybrid' meetings we are asking that requests to speak are submitted by no later than 9am on the day before the meeting i.e., 9am on Monday 27 March 2023. Requests to speak should be sent to chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the</i></p>	<p>Richard Parnham (Item 9 – Citizens Jury)</p> <p>Mark Boule, Clinton Pugh Anne Gwinnett, Ken Pelton (Teams) (Item 18)</p> <p>Sarah Singleton, Asha Gill Charlotte Cusworth</p>	

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<p><i>technology fails, then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9am 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.</i></p>	<p>Pete Walker (Item 19)</p>	
<p>6. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms Jamila Azad to Cllr Andrew Gant 2. Mr Matthew Webb to Cllr Andrew Gant 3. Mr Saj Malik to Cllr Andrew Gant 4. Ms Jenny Wells to Cllr Andrew Gant 5. Ms Yasmin Qureshi to Cllr Andrew Gant 6. Mr Ian Yeatman to Cllr Andrew Gant 7. Dr Erdem Pulcu to Cllr Andrew Gant 8. Mr Richard Parnham to Cllr Andrew Gant 9. Mr Peter West to Cllr Andrew Gant 10. Ms Bernadette Evans to Cllr Andrew Gant 11. Mr Edward Glover to Cllr Andrew Gant 	
<p>7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council</p>	<p>In relation to question 1 (Cllr Yvonne Constance to Cllr Andrew Gant) Cllr Gant undertook to provide a written response on the specific issues concerning the footpath used by pupils at King Alfred's School in Wantage.</p>	<p>Comms Q&A</p>

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	<p>In relation to question 2 (Cllr Donna Ford to Cllr Calum Miller) Cllr Miller undertook to provide a written response on the dispute resolution costs relating to the Children's Services department.</p> <p>In relation to question 6 (Cllr John Howson to Cllr Calum Miller) Cllr Miller undertook to provide a written response on any adjustments made to the County Hall building by the previous administration.</p> <p>In relation to question 13 (Cllr Sally Povolotsky to Cllr Andrew Gant) Cllr Gant undertook to provide a detailed response on the repair project including projected timings.</p> <p>In relation to question 17 (Cllr Ian Middleton to Cllr Calum Miller) Cllr Miller undertook to meet with Cllr Middleton on options for the Glebe House site.</p>	<p>DLG (L Baxter)</p> <p>DLG (C Taylor)</p> <p>Comms Q&A</p>
<p>8. Report of the Cabinet</p> <p>Report of the Cabinet meetings of 20 December 2022 & 24 January and 21 February 2023.</p>	<p>Council received the report of the Cabinet.</p> <p>In relation to a question from Cllr Jane Hanna, Cllr Mark Lygo confirmed that he would submitting a further report to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on provision of primary care services and information provided to the County's residents</p>	

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<p>9. Annual Report of Director of Public Health</p> <p>Report of the Corporate Director of Public Health and Community Safety</p> <p>Directors of Public Health have a statutory duty to publish an annual report on a subject of their choice that they feel demonstrates the state of health within their community. The purpose of this item is to share the report for 22/23</p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to</p> <p>Note the Director of Public Health Annual Report and to take every opportunity to support actions and initiatives that will progress related work.</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed unanimously (55 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions)</p>	<p>CDPHC S (A Azhar)</p>
<p>10. Amendments to the Council's Constitution</p> <p>Report by the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to approve:</p> <p>The proposals for amendment to the Employment Procedure Rules Part 8.4 in the Councils Constitution – Annex 2.</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed unanimously. (55 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions)</p>	<p>DHR&OD (Jo Pitt)</p>
<p>11. Appointment of Interim Executive Director, People, Transformation and Performance</p> <p>Report of the Interim Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development</p> <p>Following induction exercises, conversations with senior colleagues, and the Leader, the new Chief Executive has</p>		

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<p>determined that the senior leadership structure has a gap in strategic capacity.</p> <p>As a result, the Chief Executive has taken steps to make a temporary appointment to a role to provide additional strategic capacity in the senior leadership team. The temporary role is Interim Executive Director for People, Transformation & Performance.</p> <p>The Council is RECOMMENDED to</p> <p>Approve a spot salary designation of £167,000 for the post of Interim Executive Director, People, Transformation & Performance</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed (40 voting in favour, 15 abstentions).</p>	<p>DHR&OD (Jo Pitt)</p>
<p>12. Councillor Allowances 2022-23</p> <p>Report by the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer</p> <p>The Council is RECOMMENDED</p> <p>To increase the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances by 5.3% in line with the percentage rise in employee costs for Oxfordshire County Council arising from the 2022-23 Local Government pay award</p>	<p>RESOLVED, (38 voting in favour, 17 abstentions) to:-</p> <p>a) increase the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowances by 5.3%, with effect from 1 April 2022, in line with the percentage rise in employee costs for Oxfordshire County Council arising from the 2022-23 Local Government pay award</p> <p>b) add the following special responsibility allowance omitted from the report:-</p> <p>Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p><u>Current</u> <u>5.3% uplift</u></p>	<p>DLG (S Harper/A Newman)</p>

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	£7,200.00	£7,584.00	
<p>13. Electoral Review: Division Patterns</p> <p>Report by the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer (To Follow)</p> <p>The Council is RECOMMENDED</p> <p>To submit the attached report on Division patterns to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. This sets out proposed boundaries and names for the County Divisions in each of the five District areas: Cherwell, Oxford City, South Oxfordshire, Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire.</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed unanimously (55 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions).</p>		<p>DLG (S Harper)</p>
<p>14. Treasury Management - Quarter 3</p> <p>Report by the Director of Finance</p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to note the council's treasury management activity in the third quarter of 2022/23.</p>	<p>Recommendations agreed unanimously (55 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions).</p>		<p>DLG (L Baxter)</p>
<p>15. Motion by Councillor Charlie Hicks</p> <p>Council believes that it is vital to consider the wellbeing of Future Generations in all decision-making in the Council, as set out in the Alliance's guiding principles.</p> <p>Therefore, Council requests the Cabinet to undertake the following as soon as reasonably practicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review how all decision-making and 	<p>The motion was carried unanimously (55 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions).</p>		<p>EDPTP (S Chandler)</p>

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<p>commissioning of services will consider the wellbeing of future generations and put in place appropriate internal controls to ensure this happens,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the need for any additional internal roles to support this work (e.g. a future generations commissioner for Oxfordshire) • Implement a 'Future Generations impact assessment' section in all officer reports for elected decision-makers, and • Set up an Oxfordshire Youth and Future Generations Advisory Council <p>- Requests that the Future Council Governance Group, as part of its remit, develop recommendations on how to structure political decision-making in the council in a way which best considers the impact of decisions on future generations, including exploring the role of deliberative and participatory processes (including citizens' assemblies) as part of routine council governance and decision-making.</p> <p>- Asks that all of the above be done in consultation with people and organisations who have experience of delivering future generations work in UK political institutions, including the application future generations principles, defined as "acting in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs", and the development of wellbeing goals, with a view to creating equivalent goals for Oxfordshire.</p>		

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<p>16. Motion by Councillor Calum Miller</p> <p>The government recommitted in the 2022 Autumn Statement to the delivery of East West Rail (EWR). In 2021, EWR consulted on a series of proposals to address the fact that increased train frequency would, in due course, require the level crossing at London Road, Bicester, to be closed. The Chief Executive of EWR told a meeting of local elected representatives on 13 January that EWR would publish its proposals for the whole line by June.</p> <p>This Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly supports East West Rail as it will increase opportunities for lower carbon travel and support sustainable growth and jobs; • Notes that the closure of the London Road would sever the road connection between the south-east of Bicester and the town centre; • Believes that it must be a priority, working with Cherwell District Council and East West Rail, to find a sustainable, funded solution that continues to provide suitable rail crossings for cars, cycles and pedestrians at or near London Road; • Recognises that the next three months are critical to ensuring that this solution is adequately funded by EWR and national government, given that the new line is of national importance while the negative impact of closing London Road would fall on the local community in Bicester; • Resolves to ask the Leader to write to the Chief Executive of East West Rail, stating this Council's support for new railway crossings at or near London Road, suitable for cars, cycles and pedestrians. 	<p>The motion was carried unanimously (55 in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions).</p>	<p>DLG (S Harper)</p>

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<p>17. Motion by Councillor Liam Walker</p> <p>This Council recognises the deep concerns around the recent information that it did not release specific traffic impact data in relation to the Oxford bus filters consultation.</p> <p>Given this revelation this Council now calls on the Cabinet to authorise officers to conduct a new six-week consultation for the Oxford bus filters trial with all information made available to the public, including a clear 'support or oppose' question.</p>	<p>The motion was lost (17 voting in favour, 38 against).</p>	
<p>18. Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves</p> <p>Oxfordshire's Spare Seats programme has offered children a safe and affordable bus to school for c. 35 years.</p> <p>This Council apologises unreservedly for its decision to send 'withdrawal' letters to parents under its Spare Seats scheme without parental or wider public consultation. The wording of its withdrawal letters caused significant anxiety and distress to parents in predominantly rural areas, with up to 235 children affected in the short term and as many as 1,384 students in the medium term.</p> <p>To date, the Council has defended its decision on the basis that it has no legal obligation to operate the scheme, adding that its continuation: <i>"reinforces children travelling to schools further away than their nearest school"</i>.</p> <p>This Council restates its commitment to the Spare Seats scheme and to the underlying</p>	<p>The amendment by Councillor Andy Graham, as set out in the Schedule of Business, was carried by 36 votes to 15.</p> <p>The substantive motion, as amended, was carried by 36 votes to 15.</p> <p>RESOLVED (36 to 15):-</p> <p>Oxfordshire's Spare Seats programme has offered children a safe and affordable bus to school for c. 35 years. This Council apologises unreservedly for its decision to send 'withdrawal' letters to parents under its Spare Seats scheme without parental or wider public consultation. The wording of its withdrawal letters caused significant anxiety and distress to parents in predominantly rural areas, with up to 235 children affected in the short</p>	<p>DCS (K Gordon)</p>

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<p>principles of safeguarding parental choice, tackling climate change, encouraging social mixing and ensuring children's safety.</p> <p>This Council requests the Cabinet to write to all parents/guardians whose children benefit from the scheme to reassure them that this Council is giving active consideration to improving Spare Seats and/or encouraging replacement community transport services to ensure that there is no loss of services to parents and pupils.</p> <p>This Council requests the Cabinet to provide a written explanation to members of this Council surrounding the withdrawal letters and to work with the Chair(s) of relevant committee(s) to ensure that members can discharge their democratic duties as scrutineers of Council policy.</p>	<p>term and as many as 1,384 students in the medium term.</p> <p>To date, the Council has defended its decision on the basis that it has no legal obligation to operate the scheme, adding that its continuation: "reinforces children travelling to schools further away than their nearest school".</p> <p>Council recognises that a recent letter sent to the parents/guardians of 235 children regarding possible withdrawal of spare seats has caused anxiety. It notes that officers are working to identify commercial or community alternatives for those who are not offered a spare seat from September.</p> <p>Council recognises that national policy on home to school transport has been followed by all administrations over the past c35 years, and that we continue to provide transport in line with national policy. Council notes that no authority has a legal obligation to operate the spare seats scheme, but recognises the successful efforts of officers over many years in working with schools and parents to identify alternatives where spare seats become unavailable</p> <p>This Council restates its commitment to the Spare Seats scheme and to the principles of</p>	

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	<p>safeguarding parental preference, tackling climate change, encouraging social mixing and ensuring children's safety. The School Transport Working Group has published a review of the scheme and Council asks that its recommendations be assessed by the People Scrutiny Committee as rapidly as possible and its recommendations communicated to the Cabinet</p> <p>This Council requests the Cabinet Director of Children's Services to write to all parents/guardians whose children benefit from the scheme to reassure them that this Council is giving active consideration to improving Spare Seats committed to providing spare seats wherever possible and/or encouraging replacement community transport services to ensure that there is no loss of services to parents and pupils. This Council requests the Cabinet to provide a written explanation to members of this Council surrounding the withdrawal letters and to work with the Chair(s) of relevant committee(s) to ensure that members can discharge their democratic duties as scrutineers of Council policy</p>	
<p>19. Motion by Councillor Donna Ford</p> <p>This Council supports reasonable steps to mitigate the harmful effects of anthropogenic climate change, on which there exists considerable cross-party consensus in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>This Council welcomes certain of the</p>	<p>The time being 3.55 pm, this Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1</p>	

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<p>Council's investments passed at its budget-setting meeting on 14 February 2023, including the £600,000 investment in mitigating flood risks. However, mindful of the administration's approval of £3 million of expenditure on tree-planting in its most recent budget, this Council accepts in principle that it would be wrong to pass financial liabilities, over which there is no agreement at present, down to our county's Parish and Town Councils without due consultation.</p> <p>Accordingly, this Council resolves to refer the matter to Cabinet with a view to clarifying where responsibility towards, and liability for, planting and maintenance of such trees lies pursuant to such expenditure.</p> <p>This Council further resolves to ask Cabinet to write to the Council's Parish and Town Council partners to ensure that agreements surrounding ongoing liabilities are put in place in a timely manner.</p>		
<p>20. Motion by Councillor Freddie van Mierlo</p> <p>Publishing the voting and attendance records of elected representatives is critical for democratic accountability. It allows residents to make informed decisions during elections and hold elected representatives to account. This council therefore requests the Director of Law and Governance to publish the attendance records and individual votes of members made at full council on the Oxfordshire County Council website at the earliest possible date. Votes taken by show of hands at the Chair's discretion will be not require individual votes to be published. The Director of Law and Governance is not required to retrospectively publish voting or attendance records, but to do so going</p>	<p>The time being 3.55 pm, this Motion was considered dropped in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1</p>	

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forwards		