



Notice of a Meeting

**Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday, 25 January 2023 at 10.00 am
Room 2 - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND**

These proceedings are open to the public

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on the live stream link on the website..

Membership

Chair - Councillor Kieron Mallon
Deputy Chair - Councillor Charlie Hicks

Councillors: Brad Baines Sally Povolotsky Richard Webber
 Arash Fatemian Judy Roberts
 Ted Fenton Freddie van Mierlo

Notes: ***Date of next meeting: 26 April 2023***

For more information about this Committee please contact:

Chair	-	Councillor Kieron Mallon E.Mail: Kieron.mallon@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	-	<i>Chris Reynolds, Committee Officer</i> Email: chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Stephen Chandler
Interim Chief Executive

January 2023

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

Climate change, transport, highways, planning and place-based services. Including the delivery of regulatory services, fire and rescue, community safety and community services such as libraries. NB This Committee will act as the Council's 'Crime and Disorder Committee'.

How can I have my say?

We welcome the views of the community on any issues in relation to the responsibilities of this Committee. Members of the public may ask to speak on any item on the agenda or may suggest matters which they would like the Committee to look at. **Requests to speak must be submitted to the Committee Officer below no later than 9 am 4 working day before the date of the meeting.**

About the County Council

The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 63 councillors who are democratically elected every four years. The Council provides a range of services to Oxfordshire's 678,000 residents.

These include:

schools	social & health care	libraries and museums
the fire service	roads	trading standards
land use	transport planning	waste management

Each year the Council manages £0.9 billion of public money in providing these services. Most decisions are taken by a Cabinet of 9 Councillors, which makes decisions about service priorities and spending. Some decisions will now be delegated to individual members of the Cabinet.

About Scrutiny

Scrutiny is about:

- Providing a challenge to the Cabinet
- Examining how well the Cabinet and the Authority are performing
- Influencing the Cabinet on decisions that affect local people
- Helping the Cabinet to develop Council policies
- Representing the community in Council decision making
- Promoting joined up working across the authority's work and with partners

Scrutiny is NOT about:

- Making day to day service decisions
- Investigating individual complaints.

What does this Committee do?

The Committee meets up to 4 times a year or more. It develops a work programme, which lists the issues it plans to investigate. These investigations can include whole committee investigations undertaken during the meeting, or reviews by a panel of members doing research and talking to lots of people outside of the meeting. Once an investigation is completed the Committee provides its advice to the Cabinet, the full Council or other scrutiny committees. Meetings are open to the public and all reports are available to the public unless exempt or confidential, when the items would be considered in closed session.

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, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting

A hearing loop is available at County Hall.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
2. **Declaration of Interests - see guidance note on the back page**
3. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 8)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2022 and to receive information arising from them.

4. **Petitions and Public Address**

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 four working days before the meeting i.e., 9am on Thursday 19 January 2023. Requests to speak should be sent to committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit 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 9am 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

5. **Future of Retail and the High Street (To follow)**

Report of the Corporate Director of Environment and Place

6. **Water Resources and the South East Regional Plan (Pages 9 - 94)**

Report by Corporate Director of Environment and Place

Water resources regional plans across England have reached a draft stage. The government set out the requirement for such regional plans in a recent [government guideline](#), following the [National Framework 2020](#) for water resources called 'Meeting our Future Needs'.

Draft individual water company plans have also been produced. These Water Resource Management Plans for 2024 (WRMP24) will replace those that exist from 2019 (WRMP19).

It is recommended that the County Council responds to some of the current water resources regional and company draft plan consultations.

The Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to feedback any comments on the draft WRSE response, appended, for consideration by the Corporate Director for Environment and Place in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery and Environment by Friday 3rd February (a draft response is included in the Annex)

7. The Environment Act 2021 (Pages 95 - 102)

Report of the Corporate Director of Environment and Place

The Environment Act 2021 became law on the 9th of November 2021. The Act introduces legislation that will improve air and water quality, tackle waste, increase recycling, halt the decline of species, and improve our natural environment. The Act bolsters the environmental role of local leaders by providing additional powers and flexibilities to deliver action, so that they are empowered to play a fundamental role in delivering the environmental improvement needed in local areas.

The Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to

Feedback any comments on Environment Act 2021 or the implications for the Oxfordshire Climate and Natural Environment Policy Statement to the Corporate Director, Environment and Place.

8. Action and Recommendation Tracker (To follow)

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the action and recommendation tracker which is being used to monitor the implementation of formally agreed actions and recommendations.

9. Committee's Work Programme and the Council Forward Plan (Pages 103 - 108)

Attached is a proposed work programme for Committee's forthcoming meetings.

The Committee is recommended to AGREE its work programme, having heard any changes from previous iterations, and taking into consideration the Council's Forward Plan and any issues arising from the Business Management and Monitoring Report.

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 email democracy@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.