



## ***Notice of a Meeting***

### **People Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**Thursday, 12 January 2023 at 10.00 am**

**Council Chamber - 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 Nigel Simpson

Deputy Chair - Councillor Kate Gregory

*Councillors:*

Imade Edosomwan

Andy Graham

Nick Leverton

Michael O'Connor

Bethia Thomas

Michael Waine

Liam Walker

*Co-optees:*

**Notes:**      ***Date of next meeting: 30 March 2023***

<b>For more information about this Committee please contact:</b>	
Chair	Councillor Nigel Simpson Email: <a href="mailto:nigel.simpson@oxfordshire.gov.uk">nigel.simpson@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Committee Officer	<i>Jonathan Deacon</i> Email: <a href="mailto:jonathan.deacon@oxfordshire.gov.uk">jonathan.deacon@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>

Stephen Chandler  
Interim Chief Executive

January 2023

## What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

- All services and preventative activities/initiatives relating to children, young people, education, families and older people.
- Enables the council to scrutinise its statutory functions relating to children, adult social care and safeguarding. Includes public health matters where they are not covered by the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- This committee will also consider matters relating to care leavers and the transition between children's and adult services

## 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. Introduction and Welcome**
- 2. Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
- 3. Declaration of Interests - see guidance note on the back page**
- 4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 10)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2022 and to receive information arising from them.

## **5. 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 or present a petition are submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting i.e., 9am on Friday 6 January 2023. Requests to speak should be sent to [jonathan.deacon@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.deacon@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure your views are 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.

## **6. Unpaid Carers Services (Pages 11 - 34)**

Report by the Interim Corporate Director of Adult and Housing.

The Oxfordshire Way is guiding the Council's approach to strengthening support for Carers. This is our vision of supporting people to live well at home in their community, remaining fit and healthy for as long as possible. The Oxfordshire Way aims to provide people with the ability to support themselves through personal, local and system assets to lead independent lives. It is critical that carers are supported to protect their health and wellbeing, so they can continue to care in the way that they wish to and have a life alongside caring.

The paper provides information about the carer population in Oxfordshire and explains the measures used to understand the wellbeing of our carers. It revisits the results of the survey of Adult Carers in England and presents current activity which is being conducted collaboratively with voluntary sector partners and unpaid carers in our community that aims to explore carer experiences and develop an action plan that aims to increase positive outcomes and overall satisfaction for carers who are in need of support. It summarises services provided by both Adult Social Care and Children's services, including the service offered for families looking after the special educational needs of children and related provision. It also provides an update on the development of a new strategic plan, the *Oxfordshire All Age Unpaid Carers Strategy*, to support carers across the health and social care system.

The People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to:

- a) recognise the immense contribution carers make to our society, caring for family, friends and neighbours; and,
- b) acknowledge the importance of providing high quality support for carers, because whilst caring can be a rewarding and positive experience for both the carer and the cared-for person, being a carer is also associated with a higher risk of poverty, poor mental wellbeing and physical health, and can restrict social, education and employment opportunities.

## **7. SEND Finances**

Report by the Director for Children's Services - To Follow.

## **8. Action and Recommendation Tracker (Pages 35 - 42)**

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's Forward Plan (Pages 43 - 92)**

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.

## **10. Cabinet responses to Scrutiny recommendations**

There are no Cabinet responses to Scrutiny recommendations at this meeting.

**Close of 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 [democracy@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@oxfordshire.gov.uk) for a hard copy of the document.