



Delegated Decisions by Leader of the Council

Thursday, 22 May 2025 at 2.30 pm

Room 3 - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

If you wish to view proceedings remotely, please click on this [Live Stream Link](#).
However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

Items for Decision

The items for decision under individual Cabinet Members' delegated powers are listed overleaf, with indicative timings, and the related reports are attached. Decisions taken will become effective at the end of the working day on Wednesday 28 March 2025 unless called in by that date for review by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee.

Copies of the reports are circulated (by e-mail) to all members of the County Council.

These proceedings are open to the public

Martin Reeves
Chief Executive

May 2025

Committee Officer: **Democratic Services**
E-Mail: committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Note: *Date of next meeting: 17 June 2025 (if required)*

<p>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.</p>
--

Items for Decision

1. Declarations of Interest

See guidance below.

2. Questions from County Councillors

Any county councillor may, by giving notice to the Proper Officer by 9 am three working days before the meeting, ask a question on an item on the agenda.

The number of questions which may be asked by any councillor at any one meeting is limited to two (or one question with notice and a supplementary question at the meeting) and the time for questions will be limited to 30 minutes in total. As with questions at Council, any questions which remain unanswered at the end of this item will receive a written response.

Questions submitted prior to the agenda being despatched are shown below and will be the subject of a response from the appropriate Cabinet Member or such other councillor or officer as is determined by the Cabinet Member, and shall not be the subject of further debate at this meeting. Questions received after the despatch of the agenda, but before the deadline, will be shown on the Schedule of Addenda circulated at the meeting, together with any written response which is available at that time.

3. Petitions and Public Address

Members of the public who wish to speak on an item on the agenda at this meeting, or present a petition, can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection.

Requests to present a petition must be submitted no later than 9am ten working days before the meeting.

Requests to speak must be submitted no later than 9am three working days before the meeting.

Requests should be submitted 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 on the day of the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

4. Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement Review (Pages 1 - 6)

Cabinet Member: Leader

Forward Plan Ref: 2025/072

Contact: Charlotte Simms, Team Leader – Minerals and Waste Policy and Strategy
(Charlotte.Simms@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Report by Director of Economy and Place (**CMDL4**).

The Leader of the Council is recommended to:

- a) Approve the review of the Statement of Community Involvement 2020, subject to a further review of the Statement of Community Involvement being carried out by December 2026.**

Councillors declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed 'Declarations of Interest' or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (i.e. payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member 'must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself' and that 'you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned'.

Members Code – Other registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your other registerable interests then you must declare an interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person's quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

Other registrable interests include:

- a) Any unpaid directorships

- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority.
- c) Any body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

Members Code – Non-registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under other registrable interests, then you must declare the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

This page is intentionally left blank

Divisions Affected – All

DELEGATED DECISIONS BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL 22 MAY 2025

OXFORDSHIRE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT REVIEW

Report by Director of Economy and Place

RECOMMENDATION

The Leader of the Council is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) **Approve the review of the Statement of Community Involvement 2020, subject to a further review of the Statement of Community Involvement being carried out by December 2026.**

Background

1. The County Council is the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority for Oxfordshire and is responsible for all minerals and waste planning matters in the county.
2. Section 18 (1) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires that each Local Planning Authority produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI sets out the way in which consultations will be carried out on both policy and Development Management matters.
3. Regulation 10A of Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) requires that Statements of Community Involvement be reviewed every five years.
4. The County Council adopted the Revised Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement in May 2020, and so it is required to be reviewed by May 2025.
5. Regulation 10A (b) of The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 states that a Statement of Community Involvement must be reviewed five years after its adoption, but it does not specify any requirement for consultation on a review of the Statement of Community Involvement (hereafter referred to as SCI).

The Review

6. The full review of the SCI is set out in Appendix 1 of this report. The current SCI can be found here:
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/planning-minerals-and-waste/ApprovedSCIMay2020.pdf>
7. There are several paragraphs within the document that would benefit from slight redrafting and correction of some typographical errors, but none of them would affect the consultation process.
8. Provisions of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 are expected to come into effect later this year, and a revised SCI will be needed following that, but the SCI is currently correct in the legislation it has quoted.
9. The County Council's six principles of consultation contained within the SCI remain unchanged, and the SCI follows those principles.

Conclusion

10. The review has shown that there is no need to update the current SCI at this time, but the anticipated legislation on plan-making is likely to require a change following its coming into force. The Cabinet Member is therefore **RECOMMENDED** to approve the review of the Statement of Community Involvement as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, subject to a further review being carried out no later than December 2026.

Legal Implications

11. The current processes for the production of a Statement of Community Involvement are set out in both statute and regulations. The principle relevant legislation and regulations are:
 1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
 2. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

Comments checked by: David Mytton, Solicitor,
(David.Mytton@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Equality and Inclusion Implications

12. The purpose of the Statement of Community Involvement is to seek consultations from a wide range of consultees through a range of methods. One of the main planks of the new plan-making process proposed by Central Government is to make the planning process, and Local Plans themselves, more interactive and accessible. The inclusion of a review by December 2026 would require a review of the SCI once that new legislation is produced and enacted. This would not have any negative equality implications.

Sustainability Implications

13. The Statement of Community Involvement is not proposed to be updated at this time and will therefore not have any sustainability implications at this time. The proposed changes to plan-making will encourage more use of digitised online media and less printed documents. This would be taken into account in the further review of the SCI following the enactment of the new plan-making legislation.

Financial Implications

14. The review has no financial implications other than to use the resources necessary to update the SCI efficiently by making the required changes following the publication and enactment of new legislation.

Comments checked by: Filipp Skiffins, Assistant Finance Business Partner,
(Filipp.Skiffins@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Robin Rogers
Director of Economy and Place

Background papers: Annex 1 – Review of Statement of Community Involvement

Contact Officer: Charlotte Simms, Team Leader Minerals and Waste
Policy and Strategy
(Charlotte.Simms@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

May 2025

This page is intentionally left blank

Annex 1

Review of Oxfordshire's Statement of Community Involvement

Changes to the Oxfordshire County Council Statement of Community Involvement that have been identified

Paragraph(s)	Change Required	Effect on Consultation Process set out within the SCI
Section 2	The vision and values of the County Council has changed. This section needs updating to reflect that.	None
4.3	Needs updating to reflect that the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 has been dropped.	None
4.5	Needs updating to reflect the current status of legislation. Will need updating again once the shortly expected secondary legislation to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 is produced.	None
4.6	Needs updating to take out the reference to the Oxfordshire Plan 2050.	None
4.9	The heading for this paragraph is "County Matter Applications," but the text refers to matters that come under the District Council's planning responsibility but are determined by Oxfordshire under Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992. This needs amending.	None
4.10 and 4.11	The Duty to Cooperate is proposed to be changed by Central Government. If this change goes ahead there will need to be a further amendment to the SCI, but it is still correct at this time.	None
4.12	Needs updating to reflect the latest updates to the NPPF.	None
5.1 and 5.2	The proposed changes to plan making by Central Government includes the replacement of the MWDS with a Local Plan timetable. This would require an update once the legislation is produced, but currently this is still correct.	None
5.3 and 5.4	These will need updating to include the requirements of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2024 once it is	None

	enacted, and also the expected secondary legislation on plan-making, but currently this is still correct.	
5.14 and 5.15	These will need updating to include the requirements of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2024 once it is enacted, and also the expected secondary legislation on plan-making, but currently this is still correct.	None
5.20 and 5.21	The Central Government consultation on plan-making suggests that Sustainability Appraisals will be replaced by Environmental Outcomes Reports, but this is still correct at the moment.	None
6.6, 6.8, 6.11, 6.18, 6.21, 6.24 and 6.25	These paragraphs would benefit from minor drafting changes and fixing of typographical errors.	None
Appendix 1	This will need updating to reflect the new legislation in plan-making expected this year, but it is still correct at the moment.	None
Appendix 2	This would benefit from an update to the names of some of the bodies listed, however the consultation bodies remain the same albeit with a slight name change.	None
Appendix 3	This will require an update following expected legislation on statutory consultees. There is also an update needed to the current legislation listed, and some updates to the names of some consultation bodies. However none of the changes would directly affect the consultations.	None

Paragraph 3.2 of the SCI states

“The Council follows six key principles of consultation:

- keep an open mind and run consultations in an open and honest way;
- be clear about what we are consulting on and what we will do with the findings;
- give all relevant parties the chance to have their say;
- provide sufficient time and information to enable people to engage;
- take views expressed in consultations into account when we make decisions;
- provide effective and timely consultation feedback.”

These principles remain unchanged.