

County Council

14 December 2021

Agenda

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

Places at meetings are limited. If you still wish to attend this meeting in person, you must contact the Committee Officer by 9am on Wednesday 8 December 2021 and they will advise if you can be accommodated at this meeting and of the Covid-19 safety requirements for all attendees. Requests to speak should be sent to Deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk. You will be contacted by the officer regarding arrangements for speaking.

Please note that in line with current government guidance *all* attendees are strongly encouraged to take two lateral flow tests in advance of the meeting, one on the morning of the Meeting if possible.

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 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, 14 December 2021 at 10.30 am

Council Chamber - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND



Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

December 2021

*Committee Officer: **Deborah Miller***

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that Items 3, 7 and 12 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.

Members are asked to sign the attendance book which will be available in the corridor outside the Council Chamber. A list of members present at the meeting will be compiled from this book.

A buffet luncheon will be provided

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 38)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2021 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 2 November 2021 (**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

7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public

8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

9. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 39 - 42)

Report of the Cabinet Meeting of 16 November 2021 (**CC9**).

10. Treasury Management Mid-Term Review (Pages 43 - 60)

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

The report sets out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of the financial year 2021/22 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 endorse the Council's Mid-Term Treasury Management Review 2021/22.

11. Dispensation from attending Meetings (Pages 61 - 62)

Report by Director of Law & Governance (**CC11**).

Under the Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 (1), councillors who do not attend a meeting of the Council during a six-month period will cease to be a member of the Council unless the Council has approved a dispensation before the expiry of that period. Council is asked to grant such a dispensation to Cllr Michele Paule who, for reason of ill-health, is unlikely to be able to attend a meeting of the Council prior to April 2022.

Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (1) approve a dispensation for Councillor Michele Paule from the statutory requirement to attend a meeting of the Council within a six-month period from the last noted attendance;***
- (2) approve that the dispensation last up to and including 30 April 2022.***

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

12. Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky

“In 2018, at COP24, the UK Government signed up to ‘domestic institutional arrangements, public participation and engagement with local communities’ so localities can play their part in delivering the UK’s ‘Nationally Determined Contributions’ in the Paris Agreement.

In May 2021 the Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma MP, President of COP26, said collaboration would be a key objective of the COP26 climate summit; “Governments, business and civil society (sometimes called ‘non- state actors’ and including local government) need to work together to transform the ways we power our homes and businesses, grow our food, develop infrastructure and move ourselves and goods around.”

Despite these agreements and statements there is still no formal relationship for partnership working between Local and National Government on climate action.

This Council:-

- (a) notes that Cabinet has already adopted the recommendations of the ‘Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire’ report¹, the most detailed plan ever made for the decarbonisation of Oxfordshire's economy;
- (b) adds its voice to calls by the Local Government Association and others for a joint local and national government Task Force to work towards ‘net zero’ emissions, able to set appropriate regulations, benchmarks and targets and create long-term funding mechanisms to support local communities and economies to decarbonize; and
- (c) asks the Leader to write to Alok Sharma MP, President for COP26, the Prime Minister, and the Leadership Board of the LGA, informing them of our support for such a Task Force and asking for one to be established as soon as possible.”

¹<https://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/news/2021/0629-pathways-to-zero-carbon-oxfordshire.html>

13. Motion by Councillor Kevin Bulmer

“The pandemic has seen an increase in goods traffic through certain of our villages and market towns. This home delivery phenomenon has coincided with more residents taking the welcome step of increasing the number of journeys they take by bicycle and on foot. As well as serving to make our roads less safe for pedestrians and cyclists, the rise in HGV traffic has contributed to air pollution and affected the wellbeing of residents, who are subjected to the noise and vibrations emitted from larger vehicles.

Many rural roads were not built for the present volume of HGV traffic and it is reasonable to conclude that there will be adverse consequences for the surfaces of many of our highways if this increase does not abate. Moreover, it is a regrettable fact that even where weight restrictions are implemented, they are too often ignored.

This Council resolves to agree a comprehensive HGV route network for Oxfordshire and to facilitate reasonable measures to assist or encourage:

1. Communities to report HGV restriction infringements;
2. Thames Valley Police to take appropriate action against persistent offenders;
3. Technology and haulage companies to incorporate this Council's route network and advisory freight routes within their GPS systems;
4. Delivery firms to switch increasingly to hybrid or electric vehicles; and
5. The installation of appropriate and enforceable 20mph speed limits, together with physical highways restraints, in the areas worst affected.
6. To implement a agreed Cross County wide network of HGV routes."

14. Motion by Councillor Ian Middleton

"This Council recognises that meat and dairy production is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and global deforestation and that reducing consumption of these foods is a key part of tackling climate change and improving health outcomes.

The Government's independent Climate Change Committee, advises that meat consumption should be reduced by a fifth, and that public bodies should lead the way by promoting plant-based food options. Leading by example on this, and food waste, should be fundamental components of our commitment to cutting carbon emissions.

Furthermore, in the UK, only 18% of children consume the recommended 5 portions of fruit and vegetables per day, and most young people's diets lack fibre. Providing appealing plant-based school meals along with education on healthy, climate-positive food choices are excellent ways to address these problems.

Council asks Cabinet to:

1. Ensure that food provided at all council catered events and meetings is entirely plant-based, preferably using ingredients sourced from local food surplus organisations.
2. Ensure that Council school meals services have plant-based menus available as part of their regular offer on at least two days per week.
3. Work on outreach to schools and young people to actively influence and inform on food choices and their impact on the environment, health and animal welfare.
4. Encourage and empower students to make informed decisions about the food available in their school.
5. Inspire, promote and support initiatives surrounding food growing, preparation and waste avoidance, especially as part of school and community projects."

15. Motion by Councillor Ian Snowden

"This Council:

- (i) Acknowledges efforts that this Council has made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy;
- (ii) Recognises that large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers make impossible for local renewable electricity generators,

- (iii) Recognises that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for local companies, community groups and councils to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, and
- (iv) Recognises that revenues received by local companies, community groups or councils that become local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and reduce local greenhouse gas emissions;
- (iv) Notes that the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee has recommended that a Right to Local Supply for local energy suppliers be established to address this.

Council resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, supported by a cross-party group of over 260 MPs, which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply company. Council further resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to:

- inform the local media of this decision,
- write to other local MPs, asking them to support the Bill, and
- write to the organisers Power for People, (info@powerforpeople.org.uk) expressing its support."

16. Motion by Councillor Donna Ford

"This Council is committed to ensuring that active travel is fully inclusive all year round, including during the Winter, and accepts its responsibility to ensure that all feel safe on our streets and cycle paths.

This Council recognises the need to ensure the safety and security of our residents engaged in active travel and its responsibility in deterring crime and anti-social behaviour.

This Council further commits to maintaining Oxfordshire's publicly maintainable footpaths, cycle paths and rights of way network to make using active travel routes safer and more secure and encourage greater use of them.

This Council resolves to ensure that all overgrowth is cleared from publicly maintainable rights of way including footpaths and cycle paths without delay and ensure that any broken lighting along footpaths and cycle paths are resolved as soon as possible. Moreover, this Council resolves to consider installing additional LED lighting in poorly lit areas and/or those along active travel routes where crime and anti-social behaviour are high or at risk of increasing.

This Council agrees to engage more actively with stakeholders, including Network Rail, residents, landowners and businesses to ensure that they comply more fully with their obligations to clear vegetation on private land and keep public rights of way open. Failure to comply with such obligations should result in action being undertaken more promptly by this council and recharged to private landowners to ensure that all residents, but particularly disabled, elderly and vulnerable residents, are able to walk and cycle safely and securely."

17. Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves

“This Council considers that fairness, clarity, and transparency are vital for open local democracy.

This Council agrees that all motions put before members should be treated in accordance with these principles, and, importantly, that all amendments to such motions should be tabled in a like manner.

This Council notes a Constitution Working Group is now under way looking at its constitution and that some aspects may need revising to best meet these requirements.

This Council therefore calls on its Constitutional Working Group to:

1. Develop clearer guidelines to protect members and the Monitoring Officer as to what constitutes an acceptable amendment, cognisant of the points set out above.
2. Carefully consider whether the proposer and seconder of a motion should be granted an automatic right of withdrawal of their motion, without recourse to a vote of all members.”

18. Motion by Councillor Ian Corkin

“This Council recognises the importance of maintaining a degree of flexibility in its published meeting dates. Such flexibility can help maintain the integrity of committee expertise by minimising the need for substitutes, improve inclusion by recognising that elected members often have competing commitments, and foster more collegiate working.

This Council notes that a Constitution Working Group is now under way looking at aspects of its constitution that may need revising or updating.

This Council further notes that whilst changes to meeting dates are best avoided, real world experience suggests that a degree of flexibility is both required and desirable to ensure the efficient management of council business. Accordingly, this Council calls on its Constitutional Working Group to firstly, consider the need for such flexibility and the circumstances under which it should be exercised. Secondly, develop a clear and transparent set of guidelines for inclusion in the emerging constitution.”

19. Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky

“Transgender and non-binary people face significant disadvantage in society, being highly vulnerable to violence, homelessness, and lack of access to suitable healthcare provision.

Council believes that:

1. All UK law should clearly recognise that trans men are men, trans women are women, and non-binary people are non-binary.
2. Transgender and non-binary people deserve respect and autonomy.
3. It's therefore our duty as community leaders who seek to create an open and tolerant society to speak out against transphobia and discrimination in all its forms.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. Ensure that all Council services, both directly provided and through partners, are fully accessible to all, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity.
2. State publicly that trans rights are human rights and affirm the legal rights of all protected groups under the 2010 equality act.
3. To work with healthcare providers to remove barriers transgender and non-binary people face when accessing medical care.
4. Work to provide at least one gender inclusive bathroom (accessible) where possible in every public building owned or operated by the Council.
5. Ensure that the Council's constitution, policies, forms, and all internal and external communications are;
 - a. Reducing the amount of gender information collected unless absolutely necessary,
 - b. Respecting the pronouns individuals use for themselves,
 - c. Providing opportunities for self-identification beyond the binary "man" and "woman".
6. Encourage and support a network of informal LGBTQIA+ allies across officers and councillors.
7. Support and embrace a Trans Toolkit for OCC staff and associated service groups."

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing on **Monday 13 December 2021 at 1.00 pm** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders