

County Council

9 July 2024

Agenda



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

To: **Members of the County COUNCIL**

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

Tuesday, 9 July 2024 at 10.30 am

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

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Reeves".

Martin Reeves
Chief Executive

June 2024

Committee Officer: **Colm Ó Caomhánaigh**
Tel: 07393 001096; E-Mail:
colm.oconomhanaigh@oxfordshire.gov.uk

The motions have been received and circulated to all elected Members. However, they have not been published externally at this stage with the Council agenda as it is considered by the Monitoring Officer that such publication would breach rules regarding pre-election sensitivity and amount to the use of Council resources for political purposes. In particular, section 2 of the Local Government Act 1986 prevents the publication of material designed to affect the support for a political party. This is supplemented by the Code of Practice issued under section 4 of the Local Government Act 1986, which requires the Council to exercise further caution regarding the publication of material during a pre-election period of heightened sensitivity.

All of the motions will be published following the close of polls on Thursday 4 July 2024.

County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

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AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2024 (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 scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups and to note any changes to the Cabinet made by the Leader of the Council.

6. 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 must be submitted no later than 9am one working day before the meeting i.e., 9am on Monday 8 July 2024. 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 on the day of the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public

8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

9. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 9 - 14)

Report from Leader of the Council.

The report summarises the decisions from the Cabinet meetings on 14 May 2024 and 18 June 2024.

10. Annual Report of the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
(Pages 15 - 42)

Report by the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is under a constitutional duty to prepare an annual report. That report is set out in Annex 1 and documents the breadth and depth of the Committee's work over the 2023/24 Council year.

Council is RECOMMENDED to receive and note the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report set out in Annex 1.

11. Committees and Review of Political Balance (Pages 43 - 52)

Report of the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

Council is requested to approve committee appointments based on revised political balance calculations following a by-election and other changes.

Council is RECOMMENDED

- a) **To note the review of political balance of committees to reflect the election of a new councillor, Peter Stevens, at the Sutton Courtenay and Marcham by-election on 20 June 2024 and the resignation of two members, Cllr Kevin Bulmer and Cllr Jane Murphy, from the Conservative Independent Alliance.**
- b) **To appoint members to the committees of the Council listed at Annex 1. A fully populated list with nominations from the political groups for the vacant seats will be circulated ahead of the meeting.**

12. Independent Persons (Pages 53 - 56)

Report of the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

The Council must seek the views of Independent Persons before deciding any allegation investigated under the Member Code of Conduct. Independent Persons also play a key consultative role in the statutory processes for the dismissal of the Council's three key statutory officers.

Council is RECOMMENDED to extend the appointments of Mr Martyn Hocking and Mr Nicholas Holt-Kentwell in the role of Independent Persons for Oxfordshire County Council until 30 November 2024.

13. Special Urgency Decisions (Pages 57 - 60)

Report by Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

The Council's Constitution requires that "the Leader of the Council will submit quarterly reports to the Council on any executive decisions taken in the circumstances set out in Rule 16 (special urgency) in the preceding three months. The report will include the number of decisions so taken and a summary of the matters in respect of which those decisions were taken".

Council is RECOMMENDED to note

- a) the use of Special Urgency for a Key Decision on 23 May 2024 and**
- b) the exemption from Call-in of a Key Decision made by Cabinet on 14 May 2024.**

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The motions have been received and circulated to all elected Members. However, they have not been published externally at this stage with the Council agenda as it is considered by the Monitoring Officer that such publication would breach rules regarding pre-election sensitivity and amount to the use of Council resources for political purposes. In particular, section 2 of the Local Government Act 1986 prevents the publication of material designed to affect the support for a political party. This is supplemented by the Code of Practice issued under section 4 of the Local Government Act 1986, which requires the Council to exercise further caution regarding the publication of material during a pre-election period of heightened sensitivity.

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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 FRIDAY BEFORE THE MEETING

- 14. Motion by Councillor Liz Brighthouse**
- 15. Motion by Councillor Ian Middleton**
- 16. Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky**
- 17. Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves**
- 18. Motion by Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak**
- 19. Motion by Councillor Mark Cherry**

- 20. Motion by Councillor Charlie Hicks**
- 21. Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky**
- 22. Motion by Councillor Freddie van Mierlo**
- 23. Motion by Councillor Ian Middleton**
- 24. Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves**
- 25. Motion by Councillor Kieron Mallon**
- 26. Motion by Councillor Donna Ford**
- 27. Motion by Councillor Ian Snowdon**
- 28. Motion by Councillor Pete Sudbury**
- 29. Motion by Councillor Ian Corkin**

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.

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.