

County Council

13 September 2016

Agenda

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 (01865) 815270 or glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.

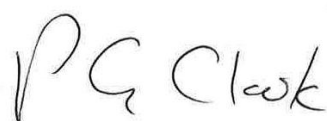
If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

To: Members of the County Council

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

Tuesday, 13 September 2016 at 10.00 am

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



P.G. Clark
County Director

September 2016

Contact Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: 07920 084239; E-Mail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that Items 3, 7 and 9 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;***
- ***All Members are invited to a Meeting of the Performance Scrutiny Committee, held directly following the Council lunch at 2.00pm to discuss the outcome of the two independent review reports commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Council respectively on the future of Local Government in Oxfordshire.***

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 38)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2016 (**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 Meetings held on 28 June 2016 and 19 July 2016 (**CC9**).

10. Treasury Management 2015/16 Outturn (Pages 43 - 62)

Report by Chief Finance Officer (**CC10**).

The report sets out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the financial year 2015/16 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report includes Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator Outturn, Investment Strategy, and interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

The Cabinet considered the report at its meeting on 19 July 2016 and recommended Council to receive the report.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2015/16.

11. Revised Medium Term Financial Plan 2017/18 - 2019/20 (Pages 63 - 98)

Report by Chief Finance Officer (**CC11**).

The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) agreed by Council in February 2016 included a requirement for further savings for which proposals had not been identified of £10.4m in 2017/18 and £6.2m in 2018/19. A surplus position of £1.3m was included for 2019/20. Over the medium term to 2019/20 a total of £15.3m additional savings are required.

Given the need to make significant additional savings only became apparent following the publication of the Draft Local Government Finance Settlement late in December 2015 due to a change in the distribution of Revenue Support Grant, it would not have been prudent to propose further significant savings without proper financial planning and consultation. Therefore, recommendations for meeting the £15.3m further savings were proposed to be brought forward as part of a revised MTFP for 2017/18 – 2019/20 to Cabinet and then Council for approval before the autumn of 2016.

The Cabinet considered the report at its meeting on 19 July 2016 and recommended Council to approve the report.

Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the:

- (a) ***revised Medium Term Financial Plan for 2017/18 to 2019/20; and***
- (b) ***four year Efficiency Plan for 2016/17 to 2019/20 including the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts strategy for 2016/17 for onward submission to the Department for Communities and Local Government.***

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 from Councillor Gill Sanders

“Oxfordshire County Council was one of the first local authorities in the country to decide on the abolition of grammar schools and to end the horrendous process of selection that divided children at the age of 11 into those who could go to grammar schools and those who were condemned to attend secondary modern schools where even the brightest children were not challenged and encouraged to progress.

This Council should not support going back to the old system that was so rightly rejected by this Council in the past and asks the Cabinet to reject any proposal to invoke this incredibly retrograde step to reintroduce grammar schools into Oxfordshire.”

13. Motion From Councillor Stewart Lilly

“The A34 Trunk Road is a major economic artery, not only for Oxfordshire, but also for the neighbouring counties of Berkshire and Hampshire. I believe it is this Council’s responsibility and duty to instigate and create strong representation with our adjoining Council colleagues, local Members of Parliament and other relevant groups, to focus upon the current and serious inadequacies of this highway. Commercial and residential development within Oxfordshire is growing significantly and Highways Agency admits the highway to be at virtual capacity now. Too serious incidents have taken place over the last five years and we are all aware of the recent tragedy when a Mother and three children were killed, plus several serious injuries.

Records show approximately 70 serious hospitalised injuries and 10 fatalities in the last five years (excluding the last four months’ statistics). In all 499 incidents and 757 casualties have occurred in this period.

Council asks that the leader of the Council writes to the Minister of Transport, the Right Hon Chris Grayling MP, Highways England, the Treasury and the CLG to collectively create an early strategy and budget, for addressing the ever increasing dangers of this road. This is now impacting on the commercial growth and prosperity of Oxfordshire as the reputation of this road is becoming well-known, but for the very wrong reasons. I fear the county’s economy could also decline because this highway is becoming unable to cope.”

14. Motion From Councillor Bob Johnston

“A new fast rail service to go from Bristol to Swindon, Grove/Wantage and Milton Keynes will improve the cost/benefit ratio for the new station at Wantage/Grove. County officers are asked to discuss with Network Rail and the DfT for the inclusion of a station at Wantage/Grove into the funding during Network Rail’s next control period starting in 2019 with a view to the station being opened by the end of the control period. The station will reduce wear and tear on local roads and reduce commuting time between the rapidly growing communities in South Oxfordshire. It will also improve access to skills and education for both 16 - 19’s and adults living in those parts of the County.

Council calls on the officers to investigate the cost and partnership funding available to develop the business case and identify the county funding contribution required for the business case. In doing so they should co-operate with similar efforts in Wiltshire and elsewhere.”

15. Motion From Councillor Sam Coates

“Given that the Council has moved from the total closure of all 44 Children’s Centres to a figure that now stands at 18, this Council resolves that the decision to close all the Centres is reviewed by Cabinet with a view to keeping all centres open beyond the proposed closure date of March 2017 and that further funding sufficient to underpin that commitment beyond the original £2m identified in the budget from the unspecified savings budget heading is made available.

During 2016-2017 constructive consultations with the new authorities that emerge from the devolution decision to begin along with other organisations that may be willing to co-sponsor the Children Centres beyond 2017 such as the Health Service, the Police, Parish councils and Charities.”

16. Motion From Councillor David Williams

“There are proposals for the reorganisation of local government in Oxfordshire based on the concept of unitary authorities.” Cases for the efficacy of service delivery can be made for each structure, a single County authority or a number of District/City based unitary authorities. However the cornerstone of any new structure must be that it is democratic and what the people of Oxfordshire perceive as representing their local community interest.

With this in view the County will undertake public consultation of those on the electoral roll in Oxfordshire that accepts the unitary principle and presents four options:

- One single County Wide Unitary with a high degree of devolution.
- Two Unitary Authorities. The City of Oxford and a unitary incorporating all the market towns around the City.
- Three Unitary Authorities. The City of Oxford and two unitaries incorporating one to the North and one to the South.
- Four Unitaries. Composed of the City of Oxford, Cherwell (Banbury) West Oxford (Witney) and South Oxfordshire (Didcot and the Vale)

Advocates of all these structures to make their case to the electorate prior to the vote.

The results of this consultation to be submitted by the Leader of the Council to Central Government to illustrate the wishes of local people and with the various submissions from the existing local governments.”

17. Motion From Councillor David Williams

“The EU Referendum held on the 23rd of June with its decision to exit the European Union is a very damaging decision for Oxfordshire’s economy and wellbeing and is not a mandate for abandoning the progressive reforms that the European Union introduced.

EU regulations related to pollution controls have become critical to our traffic management policies as have directives related to waste management in guiding our recycling systems. Our County economic infrastructure plans are clearly now profoundly influenced by monies channelled via the European Union structural funds and regional aid policies. Competition rules and international trade regulation plus employment directives from the EU influence our contracting, employment and procurement regulations underpin a great deal of Council tendering.

This Council is concerned that all these influences that have been to the advantage of the County Council’s operation are not lost and urges the Government to introduce

a Consolidation Act to clearly incorporate all outstanding EU directive and regulation at present operational into British Law. Council requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister to illustrate the Council's opinion."

18. Motion From Councillor Janet Godden

"This Council notes that:

- 1 in 4 adults will experience a mental health episode in any given year.
- Mental illness costs some £105bn each year in England alone.
- People suffering from mental illness are disproportionately likely to have other problems such as housing issues, employment and debt.
- People with severe mental illness die up to 20 years younger than their peers in the UK.

As a local authority we have an important role to play in improving the mental health of all – by supporting people in our communities living with mental illness and tackling some of the widest most entrenched inequalities in health.

Mental health should be a priority across all local authority areas of responsibility, including housing, community safety and planning. All councillors can play an important part in championing mental health, both as individuals and on a strategic basis, adding weight to the work of our social care, public health and community safety services.

The Council resolves to sign up to the Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge and to support measures to promote positive mental health in Oxfordshire, enhancing our joint working with our partners in the NHS, the police authority and the voluntary sector."

19. Motion from Councillor Michael Waine

"We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. We believe that hate crimes have no place in our country, whether they are based on Race, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Age, Disability or Gender Identity. Oxfordshire County Council condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

We reassure all people living in Oxfordshire that they are valued members of our community."

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 12 September 2016** at **10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders