

# County Council Decisions

These notes indicate the decisions taken at this meeting and the officers responsible for taking any resulting action. For background documentation please refer to the agenda and supporting papers circulated to all members of the Council and available on the Council's web site ([www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk).)

If you have a query please contact Deborah Miller (Tel: (01865) 815384; E-Mail: [deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk))

## COUNTY COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2015

RECOMMENDATIONS	DECISIONS	ACTION
<p><b>1. Minutes</b></p> <p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2014 (<b>CC1</b>) and to receive information arising from them.</p>	<p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 December 2014 were approved and signed.</p>	<p>HLC (A. Bartlett)</p>
<p><b>2. Apologies for Absence</b></p>	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Louise Chapman and Zoe Patrick.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b> to approve, for the purposes of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the absence of Councillor Zoe Patrick from any meeting of the Authority from the date of this meeting for six months on the grounds of ill health</p>	<p>HLC (A. Newman)</p> <p>HLC (S. Whitehead)</p>
<p><b>3. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Members noted the advice of the Monitoring Officer in relation to the Declarations of Interest.</p> <p>No declarations were made.</p>	
<p><b>4. Official Communications</b></p>	<p>The Chairman reported as follows:</p> <p>Flowers had been sent to Councillor Zoe Patrick on behalf of the Council and the Chairman would write to Councillor Patrick to convey Council's best wishes.</p> <p>Council Congratulated David</p>	<p>All to note</p> <p>CFO</p>

	<p>Etheridge, Chief Fire Officer <a href="#">Oxfordshire County Council</a> who was awarded an OBE for services to the community and Katherine Powley, County Network Coordinator and Streetworks manager Oxfordshire County Council who was awarded an MBE for services to the community in Oxfordshire.</p>	DEE (K. Powley)
<p><b>5. Appointments</b></p> <p>To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.</p>	There were none.	
<p><b>6. Petitions and Public Address</b></p>	The Council received a Petition from Mr Rodda asking the Council to support the provision of a Third Thames Bridge.	DEE (J. Larkcom)
<p><b>7. Pay Policy Statement - Remuneration Committee Report to Council on 17 February 2015</b></p> <p>Report by the Head of Human Resources (CC7)</p> <p>The Remuneration Committee is required to report annually to Council on the Pay Policy Statement. The report updates the pay policy statement and indicates the future proposals of the Remuneration Committee</p> <p><b><i>The Council is RECOMMENDED to:</i></b></p> <p><b><i>(a) receive the report of the Remuneration Committee;</i></b></p> <p><b><i>(b) approve the revised Pay Policy Statement at Annex 2 to this report.</i></b></p>	Agreed (nem con)	HLC (G. Watson/S. Whitehead)
<p><b>8. Service &amp; Resource Planning 2015/16 - 2018/19</b></p> <p>Report by the Chief Finance Officer (CC8) including the Leader of the Council's overview (Section 1), Corporate Plan</p>	<i>Note: The Council paid tribute to the Chief Finance Officer, Lorna Baxter and her team.</i>	CFO (K. Jurczynsyn)

(Section 2), Budget Strategy and Capital Programme (Section 3) and the Directorate Business Strategies and Performance Indicators (Section 4). The recommendations set out below (and in the report) are made subject to the Chief Finance Officer's statutory report on the robustness of the budget estimates and adequacy of financial reserves (Section 5).

The Labour, Liberal Democrat, and Green Groups propose to submit amendments to the budget proposals (**CC8 Labour**), (**CC8 Liberal Democrat**), and (**CC8 Green**) respectively and these will be circulated separately.

***The Council is RECOMMENDED to:***

- (a) approve the Corporate Plan 2015/16 – 2017/18 (update for 2015/16) as set out in section 2.0;***
- (b) approve the Financial Strategy 2014/15 – 2017/18 (update for 2015/16) as set out in section 3.1;***
- (c) have regard to the Chief Finance Officer's report (at Section 5) in approving recommendations d to h below;***
- (d) (in respect of revenue) approve:***
  - (1) the council tax and precept calculations for 2015/16 set out in section 3.2 and in particular:***
    - (i) a precept of £288,252,933;***
    - (ii) a council tax for band D equivalent properties of £1,232.46;***
  - (2) a budget for 2015/16 as set out in section 3.3 including the:***
    - (i) virement of £2.751m from corporate contingency to Children's Social Care (CEF2-3);***
    - (ii) new reserve for Business Rates;***

The amendment proposed by

Councillor Liz Brighthouse was lost by 44 votes to 17.

The amendment proposed by Councillor David Williams was lost by 59 vote to 2.

Agreed by 33 votes to 28.

- (3) ***a medium term plan for 2015/16 to 2017/18 as set out in section 3.4 (which incorporates changes to the existing medium term financial plan as set out in section 3.5);***
- (4) ***the use of Dedicated Schools Grant (provisional allocation) for 2015/16 as set out in section 3.6;***
- (5) ***virement arrangements to operate within the approved budget for 2015/16 as set out in section 3.7;***
- (e) ***(in respect of balances and reserves) approve:***

  - (1) ***the Chief Finance Officer's recommended level of balances for 2015/16 as set out in section 3.8.1***
  - (2) ***the planned level of reserves for 2015/16 to 2017/18 as set out in section 3.8.2;***
- (f) ***(in respect of capital) approve:***

  - (1) ***a Capital Programme for 2014/15 to 2018/19 as set out in section 3.9 including the Highways Structural Maintenance Programme 2015/16 and 2016/17 in section 3.9.1;***
- (g) ***(in respect of treasury management) approve:***

  - (1) ***the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2015/16 as set out in section 3.10;***
  - (2) ***the continued delegation of authority to withdraw or advance additional funds to/from external fund managers to the Treasury Management Strategy Team;***
  - (3) ***that any further changes required to the 2015/16***

*strategy be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance;*

- (4) the Prudential Indicators as set out in Appendix A of section 3.10*
- (5) the Minimum Revenue Provision Methodology Statement as set out in Appendix B of section 3.10;*
- (6) the Specified Investment and Non Specified Investment Instruments as set out in Appendix C and D of section 3.10;*
- (7) the Treasury Management Policy Statement as set out at Appendix E of section 3.10;*

*(h) approve the directorate business strategies and performance indicators as set out in section 4.0 and 4.1.*

## **9. Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service**

Report by the County Solicitor & Monitoring Officer (**CC9**).

The County Council faces very serious funding challenges, with all political parties signalling that they expect to have to make significant spending cuts after the general election. Over recent years local government has delivered enormous savings but it is anticipated that it will be expected to bear much of the brunt of these further cuts, as health and education and others are protected.

The view of the Leader of the Council is that a new operating model is needed to address these issues, in order to enable the Council to continue to deliver the outcomes residents deserve and ensure value for money for tax payers.

The Leader therefore proposes that the

traditional model of a Chief Executive and separate Directorates needs to be modernised to reduce costs and embrace a more distributed model of managerial leadership with closer working between officers and councillors, and building on our existing partnerships.

It is considered that removing the paid post of Chief Executive and redistributing its responsibilities, including the statutory role of Head of Paid Service would achieve both savings and a more streamlined, distributed management structure more fitted to the challenges facing the Council in the future.

This report therefore seeks Full Council's approval for the removal of the post of Chief Executive and the consequent dismissal by redundancy of the current post holder, and Head of Paid Service, Joanna Simons.

**Council is RECOMMENDED to:**

- (a) note that no objections from Cabinet Members have been received, and so agree the removal of the post of Chief Executive from the Council's organisational structure;**
- (b) agree the dismissal by redundancy of the current Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, Joanna Simons, on the terms outlined in this report; and, in consequence,**
- (c) ask the Remuneration Committee to submit recommendations to Council as to the appointment of a Head of Paid Service;**
- (d) agree to receive a further report, following decisions by Cabinet under paragraph 16 above, detailing other consequential appointments, delegations and organisational matters,**

The Labour amendment was lost by 34 votes to 27.

Agreed by 33 votes to 27, with 1 abstention.

CEO  
HLC

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| <p><b>(e) for Council consideration; authorise the County Solicitor to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution as a result of these decisions;</b></p> <p><b>(f) thank Joanna Simons for her dedicated service to the Council as Chief Executive over the last ten years.</b></p> |  |  |
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