

County Council

13 December 2022

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 email committeesdemocraticservices@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 December 2022 at 10.30 am

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

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on the link shown on the website. Please note, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.



Stephen Chandler
Interim Chief Executive

December 2022

Committee Officer: **Chris Reynolds**
Tel: 07542 029441; E-Mail: chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 2018, notice is given that the meeting 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.

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 16)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2022 (**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

Members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection. To facilitate 'hybrid' meetings we are asking that requests to speak are submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting i.e., 9am on Wednesday 7 December 2022. Requests to speak should be sent to chris.reynolds@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 2 working days before 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. Appointment of Chief Executive and designation as Head of Paid Service and Returning Officer (Pages 17 - 20)

Report by Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development

The Council is RECOMMENDED to approve

- 1.1 **The appointment of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service position to Dr Martin Reeves with a start date to be confirmed.**
- 1.2 **A spot salary designation of £225,000 following a process of external benchmarking. The County Council pay policy should be amended to reflect this.**
- 1.3 **The designation of Dr Martin Reeves as Returning Officer for all elections with effect from the post holder commencing their role.**

10. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 21 - 24)

Report of the Cabinet meetings of 15 and 29 November 2022

11. Electoral Review: Council Size

Report by Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

12. Review of Council Governance Arrangements (Pages 25 - 32)

Report by the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

The Council debated and agreed the following motion on 1 November 2022:

‘This Council has considered a change of Governance in the past from Leader and Cabinet to having a more inclusive Committee structure. The Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance wishes to review the decision-making structures of the County Council, with the aim of operating in a much more inclusive way that can involve all the talents of the Council.

The Council now requests the Director of Law and Governance to institute a Full Governance Review of the County Council as soon as practicable, with any recommended changes to the Council's Executive and Governance structure to be decided by Full Council and fully implemented by May 2024”

The Council is RECOMMENDED

- a) **To undertake a review of the Council's governance arrangements as proposed in Annex 1.**
- b) **To establish a ‘Future Council Governance Working Group’ comprising a minimum of 9 members (4 Liberal Democrat Green Alliance, 3 Conservative Independent Alliance and 2 Labour & Cooperative Party) that reports to the Audit and Governance Committee which will make any recommendations to Council.**

c) To request Group Leaders to nominate members to the working group

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 FRIDAY BEFORE THE MEETING

13. Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves

This Council acknowledges the difficulties experienced by certain parents and students in the delivery of its SEND service and pays tribute to the testimonies of parents heard at Full Council on 1 November 2022.

This Council places on public record the importance of delivering timely assessments, reviews and information-sharing to parents and resolves to improve its service delivery and working practices as soon as reasonably practicable.

This Council resolves to recommend the Cabinet to include as wide a range of consultees as possible in drawing up such improvement plans which may include a politically proportionate, cross-party advisory group of Councillors, together with parent-guardian delegates with direct experience of the Council's SEND service.

To ensure that this matter is kept front of mind, Council resolves to ask, via the Chairman of the People Overview and scrutiny committee, that said committee make it a priority of the utmost importance and urgency to place this as standing item on the agenda.

14. Motion by Councillor Damian Haywood

Banbury is working currently towards joining the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities led by a partnership group coordinated by Age UK Oxfordshire. This council looks to support this initiative through the following actions:

Promote positive images of ageing in all of our communications to tackle the narrative around ageing. We call on people, services and partners to recognise the need to change both the language and images used when talking about (and with) older people.

Support ongoing activity to raise awareness of the benefits of older workers, encouraging employers to change their approaches to recruiting, reskilling and retaining older employees. Council further supports the need for innovative and radically new ideas and options to support people aged 50-64 who are out of work, to enable them to age well, live well and improve their overall quality of life.

Champion more age-friendly activity and infrastructure in our neighbourhoods, so more

older residents can age well in their local communities, with access to the right services, housing, information, infrastructure and opportunities - social, cultural or economic. The voice of older people must be heard to ensure that they continue to contribute to and take a leading role where they live.

We ask that these actions are referred to Cabinet for implementation

15. Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky

Council notes that:

1. Thames Water discharged raw sewage into Oxfordshire rivers 5,028 times in 2021. All 10 Oxon based works discharged into the rivers in 2021;
2. Calculations indicate Oxford and Witney treatment works can only cope with 62% of the capacity need, and in Banbury for just 49% of requirements;
3. Discharges have become routine, rather than emergency response to exceptional conditions.

This council believes that:

1. The rules on sewage discharges must be tightened and enforcement improved, in conjunction with the Environment Agency;
2. The Government must make capital funding urgently available to address these issues;
3. Solutions cannot be local, as sewage output in one geographic area affects other areas.

Council recommends the Cabinet:

1. the Leader to write to Rt Hon Therese Coffey MP, requesting an acceleration in the capital programme to lower risks of untreated sewage discharges into our rivers, and an assurance that housing developers will be expected to fund water infrastructure to meet needs of new housing;
2. the Leader and Chief Executive to work with other local authorities to call on the Government to provide guidance and funding to local planning authorities to challenge water companies to deliver the urgent upgrades required to water treatment capacity.

Council resolves:

- to set up a county-wide water resilience working group that will develop appropriate policy to guide planning application determination and enforcement in areas where sewage treatment is insufficient, policy which incorporates legislation, integration, prevention, rectification at source, and the polluter pays principle.

16. Motion by Councillor Michael Waine

This Council welcomes the changes to its scrutiny function generally and the creation of dedicated People, Place and Performance & Corporate Services committees offering more targeted scrutiny of specific workstreams.

Notwithstanding the successes of the People committee in providing effective scrutiny of the very significant challenges facing Adult Social Care and Children's Services, Education and Schools issues have, at times, appeared to be marginalised.

Accordingly, Council resolves to ask Audit & Governance to consider the question of whether the Education Scrutiny Committee should be re-established as part of its review of the Council's scrutiny function in any governance review so as to ensure that Education policy issues can be more fully addressed by members on a deliberative and cross-party basis.

17. Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves

This Council notes with concern that highways and transport spend now accounts for only 8% of its revenue spend.

Given the comparatively small expenditure on keeping our roads safe and in good repair, it is vital that the Council's service is properly staffed and that such staff strike a reasonable balance between the needs of our City, towns and parishes.

In certain areas of its highways service, this Council acknowledges that there are significant staffing challenges in the timely provision of Traffic Regulation Orders, in particular, and in dealing with the needs of our rural communities in general.

This Council recommends the Cabinet to commission a report into the staffing, recruitment and retention challenges facing its highways service for consideration by Cabinet as soon as practicable, with a response published by Cabinet and made available to members no later than its meeting on 28 March 2023.

Schedule of Business
