

County Council

16 May 2023

Agenda

To: **Members of the County COUNCIL**

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

Tuesday, 16 May 2023 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.



Martin Reeves
Chief Executive

May 2023

Committee Officer: **Colm Ó Caomhánaigh**
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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.

AGENDA

1. **Election of Chair for the 2023/24 Council Year**
2. **Election of Vice-Chair for the 2023/24 Council Year**
3. **Apologies for Absence**
4. **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.

5. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 20)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2023 (**CC1**) and to receive information arising from them.

6. **Official Communications**
7. **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.

Requests to speak must be submitted no later than 9am one working day before the meeting i.e., 9am on Monday 15 May 2023. 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 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

8. **Report of Cabinet** (Pages 21 - 26)

Report of the Cabinet meetings held on 28 March 2023 and 18 April 2023.

9. **Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report** (Pages 27 - 38)

Report from the Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee.

The Annual Report sets out the role of the Audit & Governance Committee and summarises the work that has been undertaken both as a Committee and through the support of the Audit Working Group in 2022/23.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the contents of the Annual Report of the Audit & Governance Committee 2022/23.

10. Cabinet Membership and Delegation of Cabinet Functions

Report by the Leader of the Council – to be published with the Schedule of Business.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the names, addresses and electoral divisions of the people appointed to the Cabinet by the Leader of the Council for the coming year and their respective portfolios.

11. Committees and Review of Political Balance (Pages 39 - 52)

Report by the Director of Law & Governance & Monitoring Officer.

The Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- a) **note how the rules operate and approve necessary adjustments to achieve the balance across and within Committees to comply with the rules.**
- b) **appoint Councillors to the scrutiny and other committees of the Council listed in Annex 3 as required by any changes necessary as a result of applying the proportionality rules, and subject to any changes on the nomination of the political groups.**

12. Committee Dates 2023/24 (Pages 53 - 56)

A schedule of meeting dates for the 2023/24 Council Year is attached. These were approved by Council at its meeting on 1 November 2022 and are reproduced here as a reminder to members.

Council is recommended to note the dates of meetings for the 2023/24 Council Year.

13. Officer Scheme of Delegation (Pages 57 - 80)

Report of the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

COUNCIL IS RECOMMENDED to approve the Scheme of Delegation as it relates to Council functions including the amendments to Part 7.1 and Part 7.2 of the Council Constitution annexed to this report.

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.