

County Council

13 October 2023

Agenda



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

To: **Members of the County COUNCIL**

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

Friday, 13 October 2023 at 10.00 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 grey ink that reads "Reeves".

Martin Reeves
Chief Executive

October 2023

Committee Officer:

Colm Ó Caomhánaigh

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AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. 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.

3. Official Communications

4. Appointments

To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.

5. 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 Thursday 12 October 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 on the day of the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

6. Oxfordshire's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities ('SEND') Service

The following motion has been proposed by Councillor Eddie Reeves and seconded by Councillor Nigel Simpson.

"This Council recognises that support for children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities ('SEND') is of utmost importance. This Council regrets that too many SEND families have been let down.

This Council notes with regret OFSTED's observations that "*leaders have not acted effectively enough*" to address "*widespread and/or systematic failings*" within local services. It is unacceptable that:

"Too many children and young people do not receive the right help until they are close to crisis".

This Council accepts OFSTED's conclusions and resolves to work on a cross-party basis to develop urgent improvements to ensure that families rebuild trust and confidence in countywide SEND provision.

Recalling this Council's motion of 13 December 2022, the Leader is requested to:

1. Work with SEND families, Cabinet colleagues and scrutiny Chairs to deliver – and ensure proper oversight of – service *and* process improvements;
2. Investigate and report to members as to where more targeted funding would assist such improvements and where internal processes could be changed to ensure better outcomes without additional expenditure;
3. Ensure that SEND provision is a key priority in future budgets of her administration; and
4. Regularly attend SEND Carers' Forum meetings and other appropriate fora, ensuring that the Leaders of all political Groups are duly invited, together with the Chair of the People Scrutiny Committee, to facilitate ongoing cross-party dialogue with families.

This Council resolves to accelerate the deliberations of the Future Council Governance Group on the configuration of scrutiny committees to ensure closer oversight of this vital policy area.”

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.