

# Notice of a Meeting



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

## **Education Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 14 November 2013 at 10.00 am County Hall**

### **Membership**

Chairman

Deputy Chairman - Councillor Michael Waive

<i>Councillors:</i>	David Bartholomew Yvonne Constance Mark Gray Simon Hoare	John Howson Richard Langridge Caroline Newton Neil Owen	Gillian Sanders Val Smith
<i>Co-optees:</i>	Mr Chris Bevan	Mrs Sue Matthew	Mrs Liz Smith
<i>By Invitation:</i>	Ian Jones	Carole Thomson	

### **Notes:**

**Date of next meeting: 6 February 2014**

#### **What does this Committee review or scrutinise?**

- a focus on the following key areas:
  - work in relation to the education strategy, and including review of an annual report on progress;
  - constructive challenge on performance issues highlighting issues where the Committee can support the improvement dialogue;
  - reviewing the Council's education functions including early years, Special Education Needs and school place planning;
  - reviewing the progress of, and any issues emanating from, the School Organisation Stakeholder Group with regard to admissions patterns and arrangements;
  - reviewing issues raised by the Schools Forum.
- assists the Council in its role of championing good educational outcomes for Oxfordshire's children and young people;
- provides a challenge to schools and academies and to hold them to account for their academic performance;
- promotes jointed up working across organisations in the education sector within Oxfordshire.

#### **How can I have my say?**

We welcome the views of the community on any issues in relation to the responsibilities of this Committee. Members of the public may ask to speak on any item on the agenda or may suggest matters which they would like the Committee to look at. **Requests to speak must be submitted to the Committee Officer below no later than 9 am on the working day before the date of the meeting.**

#### **For more information about this Committee please contact:**

Chairman	-	Councillor
		E.Mail: @oxfordshire.gov.uk
Policy & Performance Support Officer	-	Andreea Anastasiu, Tel: (01865) 323535
		Email: andreea.anastasiu@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	-	Andrea Newman Tel: (01865) 810283
		andrea.newman@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Peter G. Clark  
County Solicitor

November 2013

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## About the County Council

The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 63 councillors who are democratically elected every four years. The Council provides a range of services to Oxfordshire's 630,000 residents. These include:

schools	social & health care	libraries and museums
the fire service	roads	trading standards
land use	transport planning	waste management

Each year the Council manages £0.9 billion of public money in providing these services. Most decisions are taken by a Cabinet of 10 Councillors, which makes decisions about service priorities and spending. Some decisions will now be delegated to individual members of the Cabinet.

## About Scrutiny

Scrutiny is about:

- Providing a challenge to the Cabinet
- Examining how well the Cabinet and the Authority are performing
- Influencing the Cabinet on decisions that affect local people
- Helping the Cabinet to develop Council policies
- Representing the community in Council decision making
- Promoting joined up working across the authority's work and with partners

Scrutiny is NOT about:

- Making day to day service decisions
- Investigating individual complaints.

## What does this Committee do?

The Committee meets up to 6 times a year or more. It develops a work programme, which lists the issues it plans to investigate. These investigations can include whole committee investigations undertaken during the meeting, or reviews by a panel of members doing research and talking to lots of people outside of the meeting. Once an investigation is completed the Committee provides its advice to the Cabinet, the full Council or other scrutiny committees. Meetings are open to the public and all reports are available to the public unless exempt or confidential, when the items would be considered in closed session.

**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, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting**

**A hearing loop is available at County Hall.**

# AGENDA

## 1. Election of Chairman

Committee are asked to elect a new Chair for the remainder of the municipal year.

## 2. Introduction and Welcome

10.05am

## 3. Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments

## 4. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note of the back page

## 5. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013 (**ESC5**) and to receive information arising from them.

## 6. Petitions and Public Address

## 7. Revised proposals for the Home to School Transport Policy. (Pages 7 - 64)

10.10am

Roy Leach, School Organisation & Planning Manager to report verbally to Committee on the revised Consultation Paper on the Proposed Home to School Transport Policy for 2015, issued on the 4 November 2013.

The Consultation Document (pg 7), Frequently Asked Questions (pg 21), current Home to School Transport Policy (pg 27) and both proposed Home to School Transport Policies, Options A1 (pg 41) and A2 (pg 51), are attached to this agenda, together with a copy of the standard letter sent to all parents (pg 63) (**ESC7**).

The full consultation documents, including dates of Public Meetings and maps of the school areas affected can be found at the following link:-

<https://myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/transport2015/consultationHome>

Revised Guidance from the Department of Education is also due to be released but as at today's date is still awaited. The Guidance currently in place, the Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance (issued 2007) can be found at the following link:-

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130401151715/https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationdetail/page1/DFES-00373-2007>

## 8. **OFSTED Framework for Local Authorities** (Pages 65 - 104)

**11.10am**

Frances Craven, Deputy Director for Education and Early Intervention, and Sue Bainbridge, Schools & Learning Manager, will present the finalised Oxfordshire County Council Schools Improvement Framework (**ESC8**), identifying the support offered to schools, how the impact of the support is measured and how the impact is then used to improve schools work.

Also presented is the OFSTED Local Authority Inspection Framework, and for note, the OFSTED letter to Norfolk County Council, to highlight how the strengths and weaknesses identified can be used in terms of current practice at Oxfordshire County Council.

## 9. **Externalisation Proposals** (Pages 105 - 114)

**12.10pm**

Frances Craven, Deputy Director for Education and Early Intervention, and Graham Shaw, Deputy Director – Oxfordshire Customer Services, will verbally update the Committee on the current situation regarding the externalisation proposals.

The attached report (**ESC9**) went before Cabinet on 15 October 2013. The Committee are asked to consider how best to scrutinise this process and the timetabling of Children Education and Family proposals into the Working Plan for Committee.

## 10. **Provisional GCSE Results in Oxfordshire Maintained Schools and Academies** (Pages 115 - 122)

**12.35pm**

Frances Craven, Deputy Director for Education and Early Intervention, and Sue Bainbridge, Schools & Learning Manager, to present an up-dated report of the validated figures for GCSE's and A-Levels (**ESC10**), previously considered by the Committee at the 19 September 2013 meeting.

## 11. **Attainment Working Group Update**

**12.45pm**

The Committee to are receive a verbal update from Councillor Howson on behalf of

the Attainment Working Group.

## **12. Work Plan and Committee Business (Pages 123 - 124)**

**12.50pm**

An opportunity to discuss and prioritise future topics for the Committee, potential approaches to its work and to discuss the schedule for future meetings.

### **CLOSE OF MEETING**

**1.00pm**

## 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 Rachel Dunn on (01865) 815279 or [rachel.dunn@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.dunn@oxfordshire.gov.uk) for a hard copy of the document.