

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Friday, 13 October 2023 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.00 pm

Present:

Councillor Felix Bloomfield – in the Chair

Councillors:

Alison Rooke	Donna Ford	Calum Miller
Brad Baines	Andrew Gant	Jane Murphy
David Bartholomew	Stefan Gawrysiak	Michael O'Connor
Tim Bearder	Andy Graham	Glynis Phillips
Robin Bennett	Kate Gregory	Sally Povolotsky
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Jane Hanna OBE	Susanna Pressel
Kevin Bulmer	Jenny Hannaby	Eddie Reeves
Nigel Champken-Woods	Damian Haywood	G.A. Reynolds
Mark Cherry	Charlie Hicks	Judy Roberts
Andrew Coles	John Howson	David Rouane
Yvonne Constance OBE	Tony Ilott	Geoff Saul
Ian Corkin	Bob Johnston	Les Sibley
Imade Edosomwan	Liz Leffman	Nigel Simpson
Trish Elphinstone	Nick Leverton	Roz Smith
Duncan Enright	Dan Levy	Ian Snowdon
Mohamed Fadlalla	Dr Nathan Ley	Dr Pete Sudbury
Arash Fatemian	Mark Lygo	Bethia Thomas
Neil Fawcett	Kieron Mallon	Michael Waine
Ted Fenton	Ian Middleton	Richard Webber
Nick Field-Johnson	Freddie van Mierlo	

The Council considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

72/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

(Agenda Item 1)

Apologies were received from Councillors Banfield and Walker.

73/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE

(Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

74/23 APPOINTMENTS

(Agenda Item 4)

Council approved the appointments to committees listed in Annex 1 and the following additional appointments notified at the meeting:

Corporate Parenting Committee: appointment of Councillor Jane Hanna

Horton Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee: appointment of Councillor Freddie van Mierlo and Councillor Jenny Hannaby

Remuneration Committee: Councillor John Howson to replace Councillor Alison Rooke

75/23 PETITIONS AND PUBLIC ADDRESS

(Agenda Item 5)

Item 6 – Motion from Cllr Reeves:

Claire Brenner

Charlotte Galbraith

Pete Nellist

Melody Drinkwater

76/23 OXFORDSHIRE'S SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES ('SEND') SERVICE

(Agenda Item 6)

Councillor Eddie Reeves moved and Councillor Nigel Simpson seconded the following motion:

“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.”

After debate the motion was put to a vote. The motion was carried with 56 in favour, none against and no abstentions.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that :

“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:

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..... in the Chair

Date of signing