

County Council

17 May 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.**

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, 17 May 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 on the website. Please note, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting. If you still wish to attend this meeting you must contact the Committee Officer by 9am four working days before the meeting.

Requests to speak should be sent to chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In line with current government guidance all attendees are asked to consider wearing a face covering



Stephen Chandler
Interim Chief Executive

May 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. **Election of Chair for the 2022/23 Council Year**
2. **Election of Vice-Chair for the 2022/23 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 - 18)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2022

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. In line with current Government advice, those attending the meeting in person are asked to consider wearing a face covering. Normally requests to speak at this public meeting are required by 9am on the day preceding the published date of the meeting. However, during the current situation and 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 11 May 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.

8. **Report of the Cabinet** (Pages 19 - 20)

Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 26 April 2022

9. **Audit and Governance Annual Report** (Pages 21 - 36)

Report by 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 2021/22

Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the report

10. Committees and Review of Political Balance

Report by the Director of Law & Governance & Monitoring Officer. **REPORT TO FOLLOW**

The Council is required by the Local Government & Housing Act 1989 to review the political balance on its committees on an annual basis. The report sets out:-

- a) how the rules operate and seeks approval for adjustments which are necessary to achieve the balance across and within committees to comply with the rules
- b) the appointment of members to the scrutiny and other committees of the Council 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.

11. Committee Dates 2022/23 (Pages 37 - 40)

A schedule of meeting dates for the 2022/23 Council Year is attached. These were approved by Council at its meeting on 2 November 2021 and are reproduced here as a reminder to members.

Council is recommended to note the dates of meetings for the 2022/23 Council Year

12. 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 delegations made by the Leader of the Council with regard to the functions of the Cabinet

13. Dispensations (Pages 41 - 46)

Report by Director of Law and Governance

This report proposes that Council approve a number of general dispensations under the Localism Act 2011, such dispensations to remain in force for a period of three years, in the interests of good governance and the effective conduct of public affairs. It also recommends that the power to grant individual dispensations be delegated to the Monitoring Officer

The Council is RECOMMENDED to

- a) approve, under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011, the general dispensations, listed at paragraph 7 of this report, for all elected and co-opted voting Members of Oxfordshire County Council;**
 - b) agree that those general dispensations should remain in force for a period of three years;**
 - c) agree that the granting of individual dispensations under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Code of Conduct be delegated to the Monitoring Officer**
-