

Notice of a Meeting

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Monday, 5 October 2009 at 3.00 pm County Hall, Oxford

Membership

Chairman - Councillor Ann Bonner
Deputy Chairman – Councillor Neil Owen

<i>Councillors:</i>	M. Altaf-Khan Marilyn Badcock Roger Belson	Anda Fitzgerald- O'Connor Janet Godden Pete Handley	Tony Harbour Dave Sexon Val Smith
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<i>Co-optees:</i>	Chris Bevan	Hajjat Ramzy	Sue Matthew
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Notes: *Date of next meeting: 5 November 2009*

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

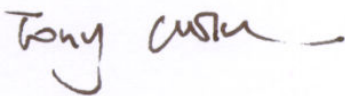
- Services for children, young people and families; preventative services; child protection; family support, educational policy; youth service; youth justice;
- Primary & secondary schools; special education; pupil services; school transport; music service
- Conduct of best value reviews as specified in Paragraph 9 of Schedule 2 to the Functions Regulations

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 Ann Bonner E.Mail: anne.bonner@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	-	Julie Dean, Tel: (01865) 815322 E.Mail: julie.dean@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Tony Cloke
Assistant Head of Legal & Democratic Services

September 2009

About the County Council

The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 74 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. **Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
2. **Declarations of Interest - see guidance note**
3. **Speaking to or petitioning the Committee**
4. **Call in of a decision by the Cabinet - Oxford School - Feasibility Study into replacing it with an academy (Pages 1 - 30)**

In accordance with Rule 16 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Proper Officer has agreed to a request from the following Councillors for a Call In of the Cabinet's decision made on 15 September in relation to 'Oxford School – Feasibility Study into replacing it with an Academy'.

Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan
Councillor Alan Armitage
Councillor Jean Fooks
Councillor John Goddard
Councillor Janet Godden
Councillor Jenny Hannaby
Councillor Zoe Patrick
Councillor Larry Sanders
Councillor Ros Smith
Councillor David Turner

The Cabinet decision was to:

- (a) Note the content of the Expression of Interest;
- (b) Agree to proceed with the 'Feasibility Study'; and
- (c) Request officers to bring a further report on the outcomes of consultations undertaken as part of the 'Feasibility Study'.

The reasons given for the request are:

1. Lack of consultation with parents, the community and local members.
2. The Expression of Interest is unclear because it mentions a primary school and a special school being included without identifying them.
3. Any feasibility study should include looking at other options, not just the academy.
4. The impact on the other schools in the area needs to be considered.

The report considered by Cabinet is attached (**CH4**)

Close of Meeting

Declarations of Interest

This note briefly summarises the position on interests which you must declare at the meeting. Please refer to the Members' Code of Conduct in Section DD of the Constitution for a fuller description.

The duty to declare ...

You must always declare any "personal interest" in a matter under consideration, ie where the matter affects (either positively or negatively):

- (i) any of the financial and other interests which you are required to notify for inclusion in the statutory Register of Members' Interests; or
- (ii) your own well-being or financial position or that of any member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association more than it would affect other people in the County.

Whose interests are included ...

"Member of your family" in (ii) above includes spouses and partners and other relatives' spouses and partners, and extends to the employment and investment interests of relatives and friends and their involvement in other bodies of various descriptions. For a full list of what "relative" covers, please see the Code of Conduct.

When and what to declare ...

The best time to make any declaration is under the agenda item "Declarations of Interest". Under the Code you must declare not later than at the start of the item concerned or (if different) as soon as the interest "becomes apparent".

In making a declaration you must state the nature of the interest.

Taking part if you have an interest ...

Having made a declaration you may still take part in the debate and vote on the matter unless your personal interest is also a "prejudicial" interest.

"Prejudicial" interests ...

A prejudicial interest is one which a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would think so significant as to be likely to affect your judgment of the public interest.

What to do if your interest is prejudicial ...

If you have a prejudicial interest in any matter under consideration, you may remain in the room but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter under consideration, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

Exceptions ...

There are a few circumstances where you may regard yourself as not having a prejudicial interest or may participate even though you may have one. These, together with other rules about participation in the case of a prejudicial interest, are set out in paragraphs 10 – 12 of the Code.

Seeking Advice ...

It is your responsibility to decide whether any of these provisions apply to you in particular circumstances, but you may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.