

County Council

11 September 2012

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.**

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 for a hard copy of the document.

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, 11 September 2012 at 10.00 am

County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND

Joanna Simons

Joanna Simons
Chief Executive

August 2012

Contact Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: (01865) 815384; E-Mail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that Items 3, 7, 10 and 11 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.

A buffet luncheon will be provided

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 28)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2012 (**CC1**) and to receive information arising from them.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note

Members are reminded that they must declare their interests orally at the meeting and specify 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.

4. Appointments

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Hudspeth, has given formal notice of the following changes to cabinet member portfolios to take effect from 14 August 2012 and including the appointment of an additional Cabinet Member.

- Councillor Shouler appointed as Cabinet Member for Finance with responsibility for finance;
 - The post of Cabinet Member for Finance & Police, held by Councillor Mallon, to be retitled Cabinet Member for Police and Policies with responsibility for police issues, equalities and community safety;
 - Cabinet Member for Children and the Voluntary Sector held by Councillor Chapman, to be the statutory lead member for Children's Services and with responsibility for voluntary and community sector and Big Society Fund with the remit for equalities moving as referred to above;
- (a) Subsequent to the appointment of Councillor Shouler as Cabinet Member for Finance to make the following changes to the membership of the scrutiny and other committees:
- Adult Services Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Mathew to be appointed in place of Councillor Shouler;
 - Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Gearing to be appointed in place of Councillor Shouler;
 - Audit & Governance Committee: Councillor Newton to be appointed in place of Councillor Shouler;
- (b) to replace Councillor Val Smith with Councillor Gill Sanders on the Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee;
- (c) to make any further changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.

5. Official Communications

6. Petitions and Public Address

7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public

8. Treasury Management 2011/12 Outturn (Pages 29 - 46)

Report by Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Financial Officer (**CC8**).

The report sets out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the financial year 2011/12 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report includes Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator Outturn, changes in Strategy, and interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2011/12.

9. Partnership Update Report (Pages 47 - 64)

Report by Assistant Chief Executive & Chief Finance Officer (**CC9**).

This report provides an update on the Oxfordshire-wide partnerships which are critical in progressing key countywide priorities and which have support from our partners.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report.

10. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 65 - 68)

Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 17 July 2012 (**CC10**).

11. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

WOULD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS WITH NOTICE MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE PROPER OFFICER IN WRITING BY 9.00 AM ON THE MONDAY BEFORE THE MEETING

12. Motion From Councillor Anne Purse

“This Council was delighted to see the contribution made by local athletes in the recent London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and is sure that their endeavours will be an inspiration to the present and following generations of school children.

Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to do all in its power to ensure that Oxfordshire schools retain their playing and sports facilities, so that all children have the opportunity to realise their own ambitions both in terms of health and enjoyment, as well as encouraging and developing the talents of those who could become future world class athletes.”

13. Motion From Councillor Liz Brighthouse

“The County Council requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education expressing concern at the arbitrary way in which the boundaries of grades in English Language GCSE were changed. This change will have the effect of damaging the life changes of many 16 year olds in Oxfordshire who took their exams this summer. It particularly affects those young people on the border of C/D and the young people aiming for Russell Group Universities who will not have realised the reward of their hard work by getting an A or A*.

In addition the Council asks the Cabinet to set up a group to look at the level of the negative impact on schools across Oxfordshire so that schools can learn from this experience.”

14. Motion From Councillor David Nimmo-Smith

“This Council is pleased to be one of the 25 local pathfinder authorities building a more strategic relationship with the Post Office Limited. It notes that the DVLA contract with the Post Office is due for renewal.

This Council notes that this valuable service means that people in towns, our city and rural areas have the choice of being able to renew their car tax in person at the Post Office. This helps promote the many other services available at Post Offices ensuring they are viable concerns. Post Offices are an important and key aspect of our County's Communities.

This Council asks that the Leader writes to The Right Hon Justine Greening MP, copying in the local MPs, asking that the government renews the DVLA contract with the Post Office, to support and ensure the viability of Oxfordshire's Post Offices, both rural and urban, thereby promoting and improving the economic wellbeing of the area and supporting local businesses as most local Post Offices are run on a franchise basis.”

15. Motion From Councillor Larry Sanders

“The Government's attempts to restore the economy are not working. One of the most effective ways to increase employment and economic growth is increased expenditure by Local Government. There is a reasonable chance that some government will recognise this in the near future.

In addition to its effect on the general economy strengthened Local Government would increase people's ability to participate in their society and act as a bulwark against the excessive power of major banks and corporations.

Increased funding would make it possible for Local Authorities to more adequately provide the services for which they are responsible.

Those Councils which are prepared to efficiently increase spending will have an advantage in applying for and spending increased funding.

This Council therefore asks the Cabinet to require Directors to begin consultation with the people of the County so that they will have plans ready for more locally focussed and integrated use of the increased funding when it becomes available.”

16. Motion From Councillor Altaf-Khan

“Council continues to be concerned about the pressure on primary school places in the City and Vale of White Horse District Council areas and is still unable to understand why the problem was not better anticipated and planned for. The number of parents unable to gain a place at either their first or second choice of school is still too high and makes it hard for parents to have confidence in the system.

Council also notes the knock-on effect that the problem is now having on schools outside the City area. It can be unsettling for all parties, as well as costly to the authority, to have children brought out from the City by taxi for the reception year only to return as soon as there are vacancies in the City schools, leaving the outer schools with empty places. It is also unsettling for small children outside the City who are being sent by bus to village schools due to insufficient places in their local home town or village.

Council therefore asks the Cabinet to speed up its measures to create sufficient new places where needed in primary schools across the County.”

17. Motion From Councillor Roz Smith

“Council is aware of the huge workload carried by all Environment & Economy officers, but is nevertheless concerned that the established principle that local members should be kept informed of highways work and planning issues in their division has sometimes slipped of late: for example, progress on the adoption of roads, and County responses on high profile planning consultations from district councils.

Keeping residents informed of progress on highways and planning schemes and having input themselves when appropriate is part of the role of local members. Council therefore asks the Cabinet to remind Environment & Economy of the importance of this principle and to ensure that it does not get overlooked, especially when the Directorate is working through contractors.”

18. Motion From Councillor John Tanner

“This Council supports charging for parking at Thornhill and Water Eaton Park & Rides given the severe cuts being imposed by the Coalition Government on local government. We call on the Cabinet to impose the same charge being made by Oxford City Council at its three Park & Rides, and for a higher charge for motorists using Park and Ride to take the bus to London and Heathrow. The money should be spent on essential County Council services, such as keeping down charges at Day Centres, improving Dial-a-Ride or supporting local libraries and youth clubs in Oxfordshire.”

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 10 September 2012 at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders