

# County Council

**20 March 2012**

## Agenda

## **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 Part 9.1 of the Constitution for a fuller description.

### **The duty to declare ...**

You must always declare any "personal interest" in a matter under consideration, i.e. 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.

**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, 20 March 2012 at 10.00 am**

**County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND**

*Joanna Simons*

Joanna Simons  
Chief Executive

March 2012

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

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that Item 3 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.

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***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.***

***The civic party will process into the Council Chamber at 9.58 am.***

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 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 (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.

## 4. Appointments

To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.

## 5. Petitions and Public Address

## 6. Oxfordshire County Council Corporate Plan 2012/13 - 2016/17 (Pages 7 - 38)

The Council's Medium Term Corporate Plan 2012/2013-2016/17 (**CC6**) sets out the challenges facing the County Council, the rationale for our objectives, and identifies the priority and activities on which we will focus.

The approach set out in last year's directorate business strategies and the overarching Corporate Plan continue to provide the foundations for our strategy. The next twelve months will therefore be the second year of delivering the four year plan we set out last year.

The Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee reviewed the draft Plan and submitted comments to the Cabinet, who approved the draft on 17 January 2012.

A summary of the key elements of the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) will be included once the Council has approved the budget, and the MTFP will form an annex to the plan.

***The Cabinet RECOMMENDS Council to approve the Corporate Plan subject to the inclusion of a summary of the Medium Term Financial Plan and any changes in the text approved by the Chief Executive after consultation with the Leader of the Council.***

## 7. Director of Public Health Annual Report (Pages 39 - 76)

***Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the report and note the recommendations.***

## 8. Pay Policy (Pages 77 - 98)

The Localism Act 2011 requires all councils to agree and publish a pay policy statement by the end of financial year 2011-12. The pay policy statement must as a minimum include details of the Council's policy on the remuneration of its chief officers and of its lowest paid employees. It must also give details of the relationship between the remuneration of its chief officers and the Council's other officers. The Pay Policy Statement at (CC8) Annex 2 brings together current Oxfordshire County Council policies into one document. It fulfils the requirements set down by the relevant legislation and codes. The report also proposes that a Remuneration Committee be established to make recommendations to the Council on future pay policy statements.

***The Council is RECOMMENDED to approve:***

- (a) ***the current Pay Policy Statement at Annex 2 to this report.***
- (b) ***approve the creation of the Remuneration Committee as set out in paragraph 13 of the report which will make recommendations to Council regarding future Pay Policy Statements.***

## 9. Local Authority Standards (Pages 99 - 102)

At its meeting in December 2011, the Standards Committee gave initial consideration to the standards implications of the Localism Act. At that time, the Committee was minded to recommend Council to retain a standards committee under the new regime. However, the Committee met on 5 March 2012 to consider the implications of the Act in more detail and is now making specific recommendations to full Council (CC9) about the arrangements for resolving local complaints against members.

***The Standards Committee RECOMMEND Council that:***

- (a) ***a Standards Committee is not appointed under the Localism Act 2011;***
- (b) ***The Audit Committee be renamed as the Audit & Governance Committee and its terms of reference expanded to include overview of member standards;***
- (c) ***a member-officer working group be appointed to enable consideration of standards complaints against members of the Council reporting to the Audit & Governance Committee;***
- (d) ***The Monitoring Officer to submit for Council's approval an appropriate procedure for the handling of complaints.***

## **10. Equalities Policy and Objectives - Equality Policy 2012-2017** (Pages 103 - 136)

Report by Head of Law & Governance (**CC10**).

The Equality Policy 2012-2017 sets out how the Council is approaching its responsibilities for ensuring that all residents in Oxfordshire have fair access to services and equal life chances. It also demonstrates how the Council is meeting the requirements placed on public bodies under the Equality Act 2010, including setting equality objectives for the next four years.

A draft of the policy has been out for public consultation since January, and the final policy has been amended to reflect feedback from internal and external stakeholders.

To fulfil our legislative requirements, the final policy will be published by 6 April 2012, and progress in implementing it will be monitored and reported as part of the council's overall performance management arrangements.

***The Cabinet RECOMMENDS Council to receive the report.***

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### **Pre-Meeting Briefing**

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 19 March 2012 at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders