

Notice of a Meeting



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Education Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 22 January 2015 at 10.00 am County Hall

Membership

Chairman Councillor Mark Gray
Deputy Chairman - Councillor Michael Waine

Councillors: Kevin Bulmer Pete Handley Sandy Lovatt
Yvonne Constance Steve Harrod Gillian Sanders
Tim Hallchurch MBE John Howson

Co-optees: Mrs Sue Matthew

By Invitation: Ian Jones Carole Thomson

Notes: *Date of next meeting: 16 April 2015*

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

- a focus on the following key areas:
 - work in relation to the education strategy, and including review of an annual report on progress;
 - constructive challenge on performance issues highlighting issues where the Committee can support the improvement dialogue;
 - reviewing the Council's education functions including early years, Special Education Needs and school place planning;
 - reviewing the progress of, and any issues emanating from, the School Organisation Stakeholder Group with regard to admissions patterns and arrangements;
 - reviewing issues raised by the Schools Forum.
- assists the Council in its role of championing good educational outcomes for Oxfordshire's children and young people;
- provides a challenge to schools and academies and to hold them to account for their academic performance;
- promotes jointed up working across organisations in the education sector within Oxfordshire.

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 Mark Gray E.Mail: mark.grey@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Senior Policy Officer	-	Sarah Jelley, Tel: (01865) 896450 Email: sarah.jelley@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Policy & Performance Officer	-	Andreea Anastasiu, Tel: (01865) 323535 Email: andreea.anastasiu@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	-	Sue Whitehead Tel: (01865) 810262 sue.whitehead@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Peter G. Clark
County Solicitor

January 2015

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About the County Council

The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 63 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. **Introduction and Welcome**
2. **Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
3. **Declarations of Interest - see guidance note of the back page**
4. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 8)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2014 (**ESC4**) and to receive information arising from them.

5. **Petitions and Public Address**
6. **Annual Report of Service for Looked After Children. (Pages 9 - 36)**

10.10

Mark Jenner, School Intervention Manager and Lucy Wawrzyniak, School Intervention Leader will attend to present the report.

7. **Education Attainment Working Group Update (Pages 37 - 44)**

10.40

Councillor John Howson to present the findings (**ESC7**) from the last meetings and to make recommendations to the committee.

Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) ***accept this report from the Attainment working Group.***
- (b) ***disband the working party in view of a lack of officer time to support its work, but keep the main issues under review on a regular basis.***

8. **Schools Forum Funding (Pages 45 - 48)**

10.50

Rebecca Matthews, Interim Director Education & Early Intervention and Gillian McKee, Finance Business Partner (CEF), will attend to present an overview of how the budget works in Schools Forum (**ESC8**).

The Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the contents of

the report.

9. School Revenue Balances (Pages 49 - 54)

11.05

Rebecca Matthews, Interim Director Education & Early Intervention and Gillian McKee, Finance Business Partner (CEF), to present an outline of the action taken with schools and the resulting balances **(ESC9)**.

The Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED

(a) to note the contents of the report; and

(b) to note that work challenging schools on use of balances is expected to be completed in Spring 2015 and recommendations for further action will be included in a subsequent report.

10. Universal Free School Meals (Pages 55 - 60)

11.20

The Children and Families Bill, placed a duty on state-funded schools in England to provide free school meals for all Reception, year 1 and year 2 children with effect from September 2014. The Education Scrutiny Committee received a progress report on the introduction of the new arrangements in July 2014 and subsequently asked for a report on the costs of the new arrangements. This report is the response to that request.

John Mitchell, Assistant to the Director for Children's Services to present the associated implementation costs to schools and the council including consideration to the consequences of parents not declaring FSM **(ESC10)**.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note this report.

11. Externalisation Update

12.30

Rebecca Matthews, Interim Director Education & Early Intervention, to provide an update including School Improvement Service going forward.

12. Forward Plan and Committee Business

12.45

An opportunity for the Committee to discuss and prioritise future topics, approaches to work and the schedule for future meetings.

CLOSE OF MEETING: 1.00

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 Glenn Watson on (01865) 815270 or glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.