

# Notice of a Meeting



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

## Education Scrutiny Committee

**Monday, 26 September 2016 at 10.00 am**

**Rooms 1&2 - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND**

### Membership

Chairman Councillor Mark Gray  
Deputy Chairman - Councillor Michael Waive

*Councillors:* Kevin Bulmer John Howson Sandy Lovatt  
John Christie Richard Langridge Gillian Sanders

*Co-optees:* Mrs Sue Matthew

*By Invitation:* Ian Jones Carole Thomson

**Notes:** *Date of next meeting: 12 December 2016*

#### 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.gray2@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	-	Deborah Miller, Tel: 07920 084239 deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Peter G. Clark  
County Director

September 2016

County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

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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 9 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 - 12)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2016 (**ESC4**) and to receive information arising from them.

5. **Petitions and Public Address**
6. **Strategic and Operational Responsibilities of the County Council & the Resources Required to Carry Out These Duties, particularly in relation to School Improvement and Support Services (Pages 13 - 22)**

10.10

Report by the Director for Children's Services (**ESC6**).

The report reiterates the ongoing strategic and operational responsibilities of the Council. It provides information about the resources required to carry out these duties, particularly in relation to school improvement and support services.

***The Education Scrutiny Committee is encouraged to challenge the robustness of the new structure of the Education & Learning services and the adequacy of the allocated resources, in order to assist officers in continuing to deliver high quality and efficient services to discharge the Council's statutory responsibilities.***

7. **Education Attainment Report 2016 (Provisional Results) (Pages 23 - 34)**

11.00

Report by the Director of Children Services (**ESC7**).

This report presents an early overview of the provisional educational outcomes of children and young people in Oxfordshire primary schools for the academic year 2015-16.

2016 has seen significant changes to tests and assessments at both key stages 1 and 2, and it is the first year to assess and report on the new, more challenging national curriculum which was introduced in 2014. New tests and interim frameworks for teacher

assessment have been introduced to reflect this revised curriculum. These changes to assessments at the end of key stage 2 and key stage 1 means that comparison with previous years is not possible.

***The Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider and comment on the report.***

**8. Exclusions (Pages 35 - 4**

11.45

The following reports are attached for the Committee's consideration:

- (a) Acadamies Data Sharing & Issues with Reporting Data
- (b) Exclusions of Looked After Children

***The Education Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and comment on the reports.***

**9. Oxfordshire Schools Strategic Partnership Annual Report (Pages 45 - 48)**

12.20

Report by the Chair of the Oxfordshire Strategic Schools Partnership Board (**ESC9**)

Oxfordshire's Strategic Schools Partnership Board (SSPB) brings partners together to promote the development of sustainable school to school support across the county.

The Board holds a small budget. Commissions are based on priorities identified by the Board in the context of Oxfordshire's [Education Strategy 2015 - 18](#) and 'Equity and Excellence', supporting the aspiration that all Oxfordshire schools should be good or outstanding.

In order to meet this aspiration, a number of priorities have been identified and agreed by the Board:

- Close the performance gap between vulnerable learners and their peers
- Improve achievement of those with SEND
- Improve attendance
- Support effective recruitment and retention
- Encourage higher quality alternative provision
- Reduce fixed term and permanent exclusions
- Support development of leaders and managers in schools and settings

After one year of working together, members of the Board have established effective ways of working, there is good commitment to attending meetings and a level of honest and challenging discussion.

***The Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to comment on the Annual report attached.***

## 10. Early Years Board Annual Report (Pages 49 - 52)

12.35

Report by the Chair of the Oxfordshire Early Years Board (**ESC10**).

The Early Years Board brings together international, national and local early years experts. Current work includes:

- strategic leadership for early education in Oxfordshire (using data and intelligence to prioritise and influence) across schools, settings (day nurseries and pre-schools) and childminders;
- systems leadership: supporting outstanding practitioners to lead quality improvement in early education in Oxfordshire, and developing sustainable local networks, or 'communities of practice';
- narrowing the gap in Oxfordshire between outcomes for economically disadvantaged pupils and their peers at age five.

***The Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to comment on the annual report.***

## 11. Forward Plan and Committee Business (Pages 53 - 54)

12.50

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

**Close of meeting**

## 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 **07776 997946** or [glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk) for a hard copy of the document.