

# Notice of a Meeting



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

## Education Scrutiny Committee

**Wednesday, 19 July 2017 at 2.00 pm in Meeting Rooms 1 & 2  
County Hall**

### Membership

Chairman Councillor Michael Waine  
Deputy Chairman - Councillor Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor

*Councillors:* Sobia Afridi John Howson Gill Sanders  
S.E. Bartington Jeannette Matelot Alan Thompson

*Co-opted:* Richard Brown

*By Invitation:* Ian Jones Carole Thomson

**Notes:** *Date of next meeting: 27 September 2017*

#### 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 Michael Waine Email: <a href="mailto:michael.waine@oxfordshire.gov.uk">michael.waine@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Senior Policy Officer	-	Sarah Jelley, Tel: (01865) 896450 Email: <a href="mailto:sarah.jelley@oxfordshire.gov.uk">sarah.jelley@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Policy & Partnership Officer	-	Nina Bhakri, Tel: 07584 481243 Email: <a href="mailto:nina.bhakri@oxfordshire.gov.uk">nina.bhakri@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Committee Officer	-	Deborah Miller, Tel: 07920 084239 <a href="mailto:deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk">deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>

Peter G. Clark  
Chief Executive

July 2017

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 678,000 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 meetings held on 13 March 2017 and 16 May 2017 (ESC4) and to receive information arising from them.

5. **Petitions and Public Address**
6. **Facing our challenges together and a profile of Oxfordshire schools (Pages 13 - 46)**

The Director for Children's Services will present the education landscape, the current and future challenges and opportunities and their impact on shaping the councils role in education and key priorities for the committee based on our actual responsibilities.

7. **The role and function of Education Scrutiny**

This item presents the opportunity for members to examine how the role of education scrutiny could be enhanced, through for example:

- Deep Dives or single member study groups
- Work programme "Action Tracking"
- Using the full range of powers available to the committee
- Shaping policy through a focus on best practice
- Well informed and focussed questioning
- Broadening membership of the Education Scrutiny Committee

8. **Terms of Reference (Pages 47 - 52)**

In light of discussions above, this will be an opportunity for Members to review the current terms of reference for the Education Scrutiny Committee and to agree amendments to put forward for approval by the Audit and Governance Committee.

***The Committee is asked to consider and agree areas to update the current terms of reference and to refer proposed amendments to the Audit and Governance Committee.***

**9. Annual Work Programme 2017/18 (Pages 53 - 56)**

To review the annual work programme for the Committee and to agree the both individual issues proposed and the shape of the overall programme of topics being proposed.

## 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.