



Notice of a Meeting

Education Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 27 June 2018 at 1.00 pm Meeting Room 2, County Hall

Membership

Chairman Councillor Michael Waine
Deputy Chairman Councillor John Howson

Councillors: Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-EmmaTurnbull Gill Sanders
O'Conner Jeannette Matelot

Co-optees: Vacancy

By Invitation: Ian Jones Carole Thomson

Notes: *Date of next meeting: 19 September 2018*

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	-	<i>Councillor Michael Waine</i> <i>Email: michael.waine@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i>
Senior Policy Officer	-	<i>Sarah Jelley, Tel: (01865) 896450</i> <i>Email: sarah.jelley@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i>
<i>Policy & Partnership Officer</i>	-	<i>Lauren Rushen Tel: 07584 481243</i> <i>Email: lauren.rushen@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i>
Committee Officer	-	<i>Deborah Miller, Tel: 07920 084239</i> <i>deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i>

Peter G. Clark
Chief Executive

June 2018

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 - 14)**

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 14 March 2018 (**ESC4**) and to receive information arising from them.

5. **Petitions and Public Address**
6. **School Exclusions Deep Dive Cabinet Response (Pages 15 - 22)**

1.15 pm

Report by the Cabinet Member for Public Health & Education (**ESC6**).

The report is in response to the former Overview and Scrutiny investigation into school exclusions in Oxfordshire. It details the actions agreed in response to the recommendations in the report presented to Cabinet on 17 April 2018.

The Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the response to the recommendations and support the delivery of the action plan and the ongoing reporting of progress to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. **Children and Family Centres and Locality Support Services (Pages 23 - 36)**

1.35 pm

The report sets out how Children and Family Centres were reconfigured in 2017 including the Family Solutions Service which provides early help casework through the Team around the family (TAF), Children in Need (CIN) and Child Protection (CP) plans.

The report goes on to explain the role of health visitors and how they interact with the Locality and Community Support Services (LCSS). Finally the report sets out how interactions at Children and Family Centres interact around exclusions, attendance and Education Health and Care Plans.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the report.

8. Elective Home Education (Pages 37 - 52)

2.05 pm

In December 2017, the Education Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a short investigation into the reasons for an increase in elective home education (EHE) across the county. The working group comprised of Councillor Waine and Councillor Smith. This report presents the findings of the investigation.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED that:

A copy of this report and the response at Annex 1 are submitted as a response from the Education Scrutiny Committee to the Department for Education call for evidence.

- (a) ***Further analysis is undertaken to understand the reasons for higher numbers of EHE at years 5 and 9 through modifications to the EHE parent/carer questionnaire.***
- (b) ***Further analysis is undertaken by officers on a school level and locality basis to understand the trends associated with EHE in locality areas to see if there are links with social deprivation or SEND provision.***
- (c) ***The concept of a 2-week cooling off period before taking pupils off the roll at a school is discussed as part of the attendance conference in July, or at another suitable occasion with head teachers, to gauge level of commitment from schools to understand whether it would be feasible to implement a system across Oxfordshire.***
- (d) ***That the authority advocates that school leaders include information about numbers of EHE children in their termly reports to governors/directors or other reporting mechanism that may exist.***
- (e) ***The Committee receives an update report in twelve months' time to review the impact of the restructure to the EHE team, how the RAG rating system is working, the outcome of the Committee's recommendations and the results of the DfE consultation.***
- (f) ***Schools and colleges in the County are contacted and asked if they would be prepared to provide access to private candidates to expand the range of exam centres in the County for EHE pupils.***
- (g) ***A named contact on the MASH is identified as a point of contact for EHE issues and concerns.***
- (h) ***A briefing is organised for representatives on the MASH about EHE and the role of the County Attendance Team in EHE.***
- (i) ***The EHE questionnaire is further modified to give the ability to include a more detailed explanation from parents/carers, if they wish to share more detailed reasons for opting for EHE.***

- (j) *The Committee would like to receive a report containing further information about the Inclusion Strategy as it develops.*
- (k) *The New College, Swindon example of good practice is investigated and any information is shared with Further Education establishments in Oxfordshire.*

9. Academies Annual Report (Pages 53 - 88)

2.35 pm

Report by Director for Children's Services (**ESC9**).

The report identifies and analyses trends in the Academies programme during 2017, and indicates changes from those noted in 2016, under the following headings.

1. National and Local Statistics
2. Conversion Numerical Data
3. Trends in Conversions
4. Local Collaborative Companies
5. Sponsorship
6. Cost of Conversions
7. New Academies
8. Regional Schools Commissioner
9. Conclusion

EXEMPT ITEM

It is RECOMMENDED that the public be excluded for the duration of item ESC10 since it is likely that if they were present during that item there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and specified below in relation to those items and since it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

THE ANNEX TO THE ITEM HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC AND SHOULD BE REGARDED AS 'CONFIDENTIAL' BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE IT.

THIS ALSO MEANS THAT THE CONTENTS SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH OTHERS AND NO COPIES SHOULD BE MADE.

10. School Building Maintenance (Pages 89 - 94)

2.50 pm

The information contained in the Annex to the report is exempt in that it falls within the following prescribed category:

3 – *Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)*

and since it is considered that, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, in that the information in the annexe contains financial information in relation to matters which may distort the process of open competition and that which would prejudice the commercial confidence of the parties in involved.

Carillion was Oxfordshire County Council's strategic property maintenance, investment and facilities partner. On 15 January 2018, companies in the Carillion group structure began to go into liquidation. This triggered an immediate business continuity response by the Council, to guarantee continuity of delivery of key services and to ensure that schools and other council functions could continue to operate.

The report and Annex 1 give a simple summary to be supplemented by verbal presentation at the meeting to explain the current situation viz a viz the resolution of construction projects that were under construction at the time of their liquidation.

The Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the report and verbal update.

11. Forward Plan and Committee Business (Pages 95 - 96)

3.20

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

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 for a hard copy of the document.