



Notice of a Meeting

Education Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 20 November 2019 at 1.00 pm County Hall

Membership

Chairman Councillor Michael Waine
Deputy Chairman - Councillor John Howson

<i>Councillors:</i>	Ted Fenton	Jeannette Matelot	Emma Turnbull
	Mrs Anda Fitzgerald- O'Connor	Gill Sanders	

Co-optees:

<i>By Invitation:</i>	Ian Jones	Carole Thomson
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Notes: *Date of next meeting: 5 February 2020*

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>Nina Bhakri, Tel: 07584 481243</i> <i>Email: nina.bhakri@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i>
Committee Officer	-	<i>Deborah Miller, Tel: 07920 084239</i> <i>deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i>

Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

November 2019

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 - 10)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2019 (**ESC4**) and to receive information arising from them.

5. **Petitions and Public Address**
6. **Report by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman - Investigation Into a Complaint Against Oxfordshire County Council (Ref: 18 009 005) - Outcomes of Required Audits (Pages 11 - 32)**

1:10 pm

The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGO) has issued a report following its investigation of a complaint against Oxfordshire County Council. The complaint was about Education & Children's Services matter. The LGO found that there had been fault on the part of the Council, and this had caused injustice to the complainants.

The council has agreed to take action which the LGO regards as providing a satisfactory remedy for the complaint. The LGO welcomes the work the council has already carried out, and has planned, to address the fault identified in this and our previous investigation. This is satisfactory to address the service failures identified.

The council has undertaken recommendations to address the injustice caused to Mr and Mrs X and Child D and to address the injustice that may have been caused to others as set out in the report.

A full apology has been issued to Mr and Mrs X and Child D and this report addresses the outcomes of recommendations to address any injustice that may have been caused to others.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to

- a) ***note the barriers to an efficient system of tracking and placing CME and request that Cabinet make representations at national political level to ensure academies comply with the terms of their funding agreements in a***

timely manner and that the Secretary of State for Education be given powers to enforce this;

- b) note the actions undertaken from both LGO rulings in 2019 in respect of CME with medical needs and confirm they are satisfied effective arrangements have been put in place to avoid similar circumstances occurring again;***
- c) note the audit of pupils following referral to FAPs in the period required and that all pupils have been placed and their whereabouts are known;***
- d) note the audit of all pupils that may be classified as CME in the period required and that all reasonable efforts have been made to satisfy the Council that these pupils are not or no longer CME; and***
- e) confirm that the Council has met the terms of the LGO ruling and that this should be reported to that office.***

7. Briefing on Children and Family Centres' Work with Schools (Pages 33 - 98)

1:30

This report outlines the role and responsibilities of the Family Solutions Service within the Children, Education and Families' Directorate, and sets out the local offer in relation to early help and statutory social care intervention for children with additional education needs and their families.

This report follows the report presented to the Committee on the 27th June 2018 "Children & Family Centres and Locality Support Services; how current services work together to ease transition to school and promote school inclusion, with specific reference to Health Visiting, Locality & Community Support Services and Family Support Services".

The previous report is appended to this report for ease of reference.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the report.

8. Schools National Funding Formula

2:00

The Committee will receive a brief presentation from Mrs Sarah Fogden (Finance Business Partner) on the latest position on the National Schools Funding formula.

9. **Oxfordshire Pupil Place Plan 2019-23** (Pages 99 - 272)

2:25

The Pupil Place Plan includes present and predicted future pupil numbers on roll, together with information about birth rates, school capacity, and new housing. The Plan sets out proposed changes in the number of school places available over the next year and it suggests where other changes may be necessary in the future. The plan also sets out our policies on school organisation and the statutory framework for making changes such as opening, closing or enlarging schools. The Plan does not itself propose service changes, but collates proposals which have been made, or are expected.

The Pupil Place Plan is updated annually, based on revised data and comments from schools.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the attached report and agree any comments it may wish to ensure Cabinet considers when asked to adopt the Oxfordshire 2019-2023 Pupil Place Plan at its meeting on 21st January 2020.

10. **Forward Plan and Committee Business** (Pages 273 - 276)

2:45

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 for a hard copy of the document.