



Notice of a Meeting

Education Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 5 February 2020 at 1.00 pm Committee Rooms 1&2, 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
-----------------------	-----------	----------------

Notes: *Date of next meeting: 22 April 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

January 2020

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. **Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
2. **Introduction and Welcome**
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 20 November 2019 (**ESC4**) and to receive information arising from them.

5. **Petitions and Public Address**
6. **Improving Educational Outcomes (Pages 9 - 58)**

1:10

A strategic review is being undertaken on how Oxfordshire County Council and key stakeholders, including settings, schools, Trusts, Diocesan Authorities and parents can all contribute to further improve education outcomes for young people in Oxfordshire. This review is commissioned by Lucy Butler, Director for Children, Education and Families.

As part of this review, the Committee's view and opinions on the document 'Improving Education Outcomes – a strategic review' (**ESC6**) are sought.

Our aim is to develop joint priorities which all stakeholders can support and work towards achieving.

Consultation is essential to develop an effective local school improvement system which is fit for purpose, led by schools and multi-academy trusts, yet with the active engagement of key strategic partners including Oxfordshire County Council.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider and comment on the Consultation.

7. **The Management of Changing Rolls in Oxfordshire Schools (Pages 59 - 74)**

1:30

Members of Scrutiny Committee received an update on population trends affecting the provision of education services for children and young people in the county at its meeting on 4 September 2019. The aims and objectives of a strategy to meet changing demand and promote sustainability for schools is set out in the report (**ESC7**).

Aims

- a) Ensure sufficient places in mainstream schools for Oxfordshire's growing population.
- b) Ensure sufficient provision for children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities, not only to meet population growth, but also related to changing policy, practice and incidence of specific needs.
- c) Ensure sufficient Alternative Provision.
- d) Support Oxfordshire's schools to respond to changes in demand, both down as well as up.

Objectives

- a) Monitor demographic changes and housing growth in order to inform annual pupil forecasts.
- b) Plan for new schools and expansions of existing schools.
- c) Identify emerging spare building capacity which could be reallocated to other uses.
- d) Provide guidance to schools on maintaining their affordability/sustainability.

The Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the trends in requirements for pupil places and to note the action plan to be monitored by officers.

8. Alternative Provision Commissioning Progress Update (Pages 75 - 78)

1:50

Education Scrutiny Committee has requested an update on the Recommissioning of Alternative Provision for children and schools in Oxfordshire (**ESC8**).

The Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider and note this report.

9. Educational Attainment Working Group Report (Pages 79 - 98)

2:00

The report (**ESC9**) is the result of a deep dive by the Education Scrutiny Committee, as set out in its Forward Plan of work. The Committee formed a working group to take the deep dive forward, which met with key officers in the Education Service and visited four secondary schools to learn about good practice and innovation in teaching disadvantaged children.

This report sets out why attainment (and progress), particularly of disadvantaged children, was chosen as a deep dive topic, what examples of good practice in education of disadvantaged pupils at secondary schools the working group learned about, and sets out the Working Group's conclusions for officers, Education Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet Member for Education and Cultural Services. The Education Service is beginning the development of a comprehensive 3-year Education Strategy for Oxfordshire. This report is therefore presenting the findings of the deep dive investigation, and the Working Group's conclusions in the interim, ahead of this

important scheme of work.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider the conclusions of the report.

10. Forward Plan and Committee Business (Pages 99 - 102)

2:30

An opportunity to discuss and prioritise future topics for the Committee, potential approaches to its work and to discuss the schedule (**ESC10**) for future meetings.

EXEMPT ITEMS

The Committee is RECOMMENDED that the public be excluded for the duration of items 11 and 12 and 13 in the Agenda since it is likely that if they were present during those items 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 in relation to the respective items in the Agenda and since it is considered that, in all the circumstances of each case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

THE REPORTS RELATING TO THE EXEMPT ITEM HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC AND SHOULD BE REGARDED AS STRICTLY PRIVATE TO MEMBERS AND OFFICERS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE IT.

NOTE: In the case of item 13, there is no report circulated with the Agenda. Any exempt information will be reported orally.

11. In Year Fair Access Policy Update (Pages 103 - 128)

2:40

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

2 Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

It is considered that in this case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, in that such disclosure would infringe the rights of the individual to privacy contrary to the general law and the duty of the authority to respect human rights and to comply with that law.

An update on the implementation and outcomes of the revised In Year Fair Access Policy (IYFAP) has been requested by Education Scrutiny Committee. In Year Fair Access protocols with schools are required under the terms of the statutory School Admissions Code 2014. This is to afford a mechanism whereby children requiring a school place outside normal admissions rounds, where local places may not be available or when the child has additional vulnerabilities, can be offered a school place.

The protocol is designed to ensure a fair distribution of non-placed children across all schools. In Year Fair Access protocols must be designed in collaboration with

representative school leaders and agreed by the majority. 100% agreement is not required for the IYFAP to be valid and lawful.

12. Education Achievement and Attainment in Oxfordshire and its Localities' Schools (Pages 129 - 138)

3:00

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

2 Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

It is considered that in this case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, in that such disclosure would infringe the rights of the individual to privacy contrary to the general law and the duty of the authority to respect human rights and to comply with that law.

This Annual Education Performance Report at key stage 4 gives a summary and overall analysis of key outcomes and progress measures.

13. Ofsted and Oxfordshire Academies

3:20

The information contained in the verbal update is exempt in that it falls within the following prescribed category:

2 Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

It is considered that in this case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, in that such disclosure would infringe the rights of the individual to privacy contrary to the general law and the duty of the authority to respect human rights and to comply with that law.

The Deputy Director of Education, Chris Hikkiard will give a verbal update outlining Paper recent discussions with Ofsted.

CLOSE OF MEETING

3:30

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.