



County Council

4 November 2014

Schedule of Business

County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

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OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – 04 NOVEMBER 2014

SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

Members are asked to note that there will be a very brief demonstration of the new equipment in the Council Chamber at 10.00 am.

AGENDA ITEM	PAGE NO.	MAXIMUM DURATION	APPROX START TIME TIME LIMIT PER DEBATE	SUBJECT	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)
1.				Election of the Vice-Chairman for the Remainder of the Municipal Year 2014/15	M Councillor Brighthouse SEC Councillor Hudspeth
2.	1	30 mins	10:30	Minutes	
3.	2			Apologies for Absence	
4.	2			Declarations of Interest	

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5.	2			<p>Official Communications</p> <p>The Chairman reports as follows:</p> <p>The 4624 Squadron at Brize Norton received the Freedom of the County and have given to the County Council an embroidered Squadron Crest which can be seen in the Members Board Room.</p>	
6.	2			<p>Appointments</p>	
7.	2			<p>Petitions and Public Address</p>	<p><u>Item 12 – Themed Debate on Fracking:</u> Paul Mobbs Dr Evelyne Godfrey</p>
8.	2			<p>Questions with Notice from Members of the Public</p>	<p>None.</p>

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9.	2	30 mins	11.00	Questions with Notice from Members of the Council (1) Pressel to Tilley (2) Williams to Nimmo Smith (3) Coates to Hudspeth (4) Coates to Heathcoat (5) Coates to Lilly (6) Williams to Hudspeth (7) Coates to Nimmo Smith (8) Pressel to Rose (9) Pressel to Nimmo Smith (10)Price to Heathcoat (11)Tanner to Nimmo Smith (12)Tanner to Hudspeth	- See Annex 2

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10.	2	30 mins	11.30	Report of the Cabinet Leader (Hudspeth) Deputy Leader (Rose) Adult Social Care (Heathcoat) Children, Education & Families (Tilley) Environment (Nimmo Smith) Finance (Stratford)	Q Councillor Patrick, Councillor Williams (1) Q Councillor Tanner (2); Councillor Hards (4) Q Councillor Price, Councillor Pressel, Councillor Godden, Councillor Rooke (5); Councillor Pressel, Councillor Rooke (7) Q Councillor Owen (8); Councillor Rooke, Councillor Fooks (9) Q Councillor Patrick, Councillor Fooks (10); Councillor Fawcett, Councillor Lilly(12); Councillor Tanner, Councillor Pressel, Councillor Godden(14) Q Councillor Pressel (15); Councillor Smith

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11.	2	20 mins	12.00	Requests for virements and the use of Reserves	(M) Councillor Stratford (SEC) Councillor Hudspeth S Councillor Hards S Councillor Gill Sanders S Councillor Laura Price S Councillor Smith S Councillor Patrick

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12.	3	1.10 mins	12.20	<p>Themed Debate – Fracking</p> <p>Following the discussion a record of the issues raised will be available on the County Council website.</p> <p>Group Leaders have requested additional information on the timescale for considering Licence applications. Annex 1 contains an extract taken from a Department of Energy and Climate Change questions and answers document which was updated on 7th October:</p>	<p>M Councillor Purse SEC Councillor John Sanders S Councillor Tanner S Councillor Christie S Councillor Dhesi S Councillor Cherry S Councillor Hards S Councillor Brighthouse S Councillor Tilley S Councillor Greene S Councillor Owen S Councillor Mrs Fulljames S Councillor Bartholomew S Councillor Handley S Councillor Williams S Councillor Coates S Councillor Smith S Councillor Fooks S Councillor Hudspeth S Councillor Nimmo Smith</p>
LUNCH		1.30			

Extract from Department of Energy and Climate Change questions and answers document which was updated on 7th October:

Q33: What is the timescale for considering Licence applications after the 28th October and announcing the awards?.

A: It is not possible at this stage to provide a specific indication of the possible timing. This is partly because we do not know how many applications will be submitted. After the round closes, DECC geotechnical assessors will review the application documents, and are invited for an interview to answer technical and work programme questions. Only after all the interview the applicants. In addition the requirements of the Habitats Regulations will need to be addressed for the areas applied for. Subject to Ministerial decisions, however, it is expected that the winning applicants will be notified early in 2015.

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QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

ANNEX 2

Questions are listed in the order in which they were received. The time allowed for this agenda item will not exceed 30 minutes. Should any questioner not have received an answer in that time, a written answer will be provided.

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>Please can you tell us to what extent we have been able to secure an Olympic legacy in Oxfordshire as far as sport in schools is concerned: for instance, do all children still benefit from the schools’ sports partnerships that were such a success under the previous government?”</p>	<p>COUCILLOR MELINDA TILLEY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN< EDUCATION & FAMILIES</p> <p>Sports partnerships were originally managed both within local partnerships and across secondary schools according to the sport and level of skill. Arrangements for the continuation of partnership working in relation to sporting and related activities are for schools to determine and we have no central record of those arrangements.</p> <p>I am pleased to report , however , that a very quick straw poll of schools reveals some examples of good practice which capitalise on previous practice and , for example, the recently introduced PE and Sport Premium for primary schools. This is a ring-fenced grant available to primary schools for the academic year 2014/15. Schools with 16 or fewer eligible pupils receive £500 per pupil and Schools with 17 or more eligible pupils receive £8,000 and an additional payment of £5 per pupil.</p> <p>The North Oxfordshire School Sport Partnership is an example of a very vibrant organisation, originally established in 2004, working in partnership with 51 schools from across North Oxfordshire. Its overriding aim is to engage more 5 to 19 year olds in high quality Physical Education, School and Community Sport, thereby promoting excellence and lifelong participation in health promoting activity. Annually it organises and delivers over 250 School Games competitions and sports festivals, supports teachers with the development and delivery of high quality PE and school sport, deploys a team of highly motivated specialist PE Mentors and Sports Coaches to support both</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>curricular and extra-curricular initiatives, trains and mentors young leaders as coaches, officials and team managers, and forges effective pathways for young people from schools into community sport.</p> <p>Similarly, down in the South of the county, the Henley School Partnership, for example organises a schedule of tournaments each academic year. Each primary school pays a fee each year to the Secondary school to cover costs for this. This encourages a healthy competitive element across the schools which the children enjoy and benefit from.</p>
<p>2. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>There has been a great deal of blame apportioned by a certain City Councillor on the shoulders of the County Council for blocking the City Council's Cycle City plans. Does the Cabinet member accept these criticisms or does he consider that such claims are merely an attempt to blame somebody else for the extremely slow progress of the programme?</p>	<p>COUCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>At a time when the county council are putting millions of pounds and many thousands of hours of staff time into developing and implementing transport schemes in Oxford, including major improvements for cyclists, the suggestion that the county council is blocking investment in cycling is simply wrong.</p> <p>Over the years, county council officers have worked closely with city council colleagues to implement a number of cycle improvements in the city as part of the "Cycle City" plans, including suggestions that were received from the city council.</p> <p>As part of the county council's fourth Local Transport Plan, officers are also developing a transport strategy for Oxford. The strategy will have a strong emphasis on cycling improvements across Oxford and the county council will continue to work with the city council to consider and take forward the right cycling projects.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>3. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Are you aware of the recent attack by the Government Minister Norman Baker MP who specifically identified the Oxford County Council in a recent speech for their targeted cuts on the poor and vulnerable as a classic example of the 'nasty party in action'?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER</p> <p>Obviously with a general election on the horizon we can expect efforts by the junior members of the coalition to stake out some independent ground in the hope of regaining their lost voters. It is nonetheless unfortunate that Norman Baker has chosen to speak out in a hyperbolic way against savings which are the result of central government funding reductions for which he voted.</p> <p>He has recently visited Oxfordshire to see our high-profile work on tackling child sexual exploitation. This included a 30 minute meeting with me, following which we had lunch together. At no point did he raise his concerns about our budget position directly, which leads me to believe that his comments are for the gallery rather than a constructive contribution to the debate about how we meet our savings target.</p>
<p>4. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Are you concerned at yet another very large pay rises for the eight executive directors of Oxford University Hospitals that has recently been announced, especially as they had similar bonus payments last year amounting to a 61% increase in extra payments. Do you accept that paying people massive increases to implement £160 million pounds worth of cuts over 4 years when workers in the NHS are receiving 1% extra this year is disgraceful? Do you accept that meeting targets (i.e. doing your job) is not a sufficient reason to increase senior executives pay by such outrageous amounts?"</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>Pay awards for executive directors are a matter for the Oxford University Hospitals Trust, and their Board in particular, to decide. However, I agree that the levels of award are high within the context of significant savings and a 1% award for NHS staff generally.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>5. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>When is the next scheduled meeting of the County Council Pension Investment Committee and as the Chair will you be bringing to their attention the recent debate on fossil fuel disinvestment held in this chamber and illustrating that now is the time to switch investment patterns to renewable power companies?"</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR STEWART LILLY, CHAIRMAN OF THE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE</p> <p>The next meeting of the Pension Fund Committee will be on Friday 5 December 2014. I will not be raising the issue of investments in fossil fuel, as the Committee has discussed this issue at its meetings of 6 June 2014 and again on 5 September 2014. The meeting of 6 June 2014 considered the legal opinion provided by Nigel Giffin QC on behalf of the Shadow Scheme Advisory Board. This concluded that the Administering Authority's power of investment must be exercised for investment purposes, and not for any wider purposes. Wider social, ethical and environmental considerations could only be taken into account where there is no financial detriment in meeting the Funds investment objectives.</p> <p>At the meeting on 5 September 2014, I specifically referred to the motion at the July Council meeting on this subject, and the Committee confirmed that in light of the advice provided from Nigel Giffin QC, they were happy with the current arrangements. These include the instruction to our Fund Managers to take social, ethical and environmental considerations into account when assessing investment opportunities, but do not limit the Fund Managers flexibility when making their decision. Cllr Coates may wish to note that the Energy Analyst from UBS, one of our current Fund Managers will be speaking at the Annual Employers Pension Fund Forum on 12 December 2014, during which he will cover how they incorporate such issues into their decision making, and their current investment strategy. Cllr Coates is more than welcome to join us.</p>
<p>6. COUNCILLOR DAVID WILLIAMS</p> <p>When will the City Farm Lease be completed. How much longer do the organisers have to wait before there is real progress ?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER</p> <p>I have previously put on record my personal support for this project. I first met with the project team in 2010 when I was Cabinet Member for Growth & Infrastructure and was impressed with their vision. When a funding issue was identified last year I was able to find a solution which should have unblocked the</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p>process. Unfortunately, there was a disconnect in the process and the history behind this was lost until recently.</p> <p>I need to make an apology to Cllr Sanders and the City Farm. At Cabinet on Tuesday 21st October I responded to a similar question saying that this lease should be completed by 24th October. Unfortunately, the officer who provided that answer thought the question related to the next step, which was preparing a report and not the finalisation of the whole process. That report was completed by the 24th October, and has set out the remaining work required to finalise this lease.</p> <p>Unfortunately, I can't give a specific timescale for final completion of the agreement as the lease will be subject to obtaining confirmation that all the conditions have been satisfied. While we can commit to dealing with this as a priority, however, due to the involvement of a number of third parties, we cannot commit them to a specific timescale.</p> <p>For information, the following steps are still required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OCC to formally agree to declare this property surplus to the requirements of the County Council • Negotiation of terms for an agreement to lease and the eventual grant of a lease to City Farm Group. This will be subject to various conditions being satisfied, including City Farm obtaining planning permission • City Farm securing sufficient funding to commit to phase 1 • OCC obtaining a formal Deed of Release of a restrictive covenant from Birmingham Roman Catholic Diocese Trust (BRCDT) • Confirming whether OCC needs Secretary of State's consent in respect of Section 77 of the Schools Standards & Framework Act and Schedule 1 of the Academies Act 2010 • OCC to undertake discussions/negotiations with an adjoining OCC tenant in respect of the access to the land proposed for the City Farm • Once all the above steps are concluded issuing formal instruction to Legal Services to produce the required documentation with City Farm legal

Questions	Answers
	representatives
<p>7. COUNCILLOR SAM COATES</p> <p>Why has OCC failed to take action to improve traffic in the Air Quality Management Areas in the Oxfordshire outer towns so that air pollution levels are reduced to below EU and UK Government set levels? What provision is being made in LTP4 for traffic management in these areas to achieve the required level of air quality?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>Councillors will be aware that District Councils are the responsible body for Air Quality. The County Council's responsibility is to work with them, and in Oxfordshire there is a cross authority Air Quality Group which we are participating in.</p> <p>There is no easy/obvious solution to Air Quality problems: in many cases traffic management solutions have limited benefit or create other local problems. The biggest impact to reducing levels is likely to be through technology advances, for example development of electric or other low emission vehicles. Industry and UK markets set the pace of this progression.</p> <p>The County Council's new Local Transport Plan will seek a step change in the use and investment in non-car travel. We will be supportive and help to facilitate other measures which can help local Air Quality, such as electric vehicles, where appropriate.</p>
<p>8. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>I was pleased to see that Cllr Rose sometimes comes into Oxford by train rather than adding to the congestion and pollution by using his car in the rush hour; he was quoted as saying that he feels he should put his money where his mouth is.</p> <p>Can he please suggest how we can persuade his colleagues to follow suit, e.g. by at least using the park and ride?"</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR RODNEY ROSE, DEPUTY LEADER</p> <p>I have sometimes felt envy for those who live in an area with an almost infinite supply of buses, or who live within an 8 minute bike ride of County Hall. But I do have to admit that those feelings are VERY infrequent and VERY short-lived. I value the fact that ALL local Members should have a good knowledge of their patches, and will therefore make intelligent decisions on their various transport options. I am not sure that I have the knowledge to advise people who live possibly 25 miles out of Oxford City, maybe not on a bus route and with no local railway station, on what travel choices they should make.</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>9. COUNCILLOR SUSANNA PRESSEL</p> <p>When will we at last be able to see the draft Cycling Strategy?"</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The Oxfordshire Cycling Strategy is currently being put together as part of our development of the Council's new Local Transport Plan, LTP4, and a draft Strategy is proposed to go out to consultation as part of the Plan in early 2015. The draft Plan is due to be considered by Cabinet on 27 January.</p> <p>Ahead of this, we are proposing to arrange a drop-in session for Members so they can see how the Plan is coming together, and we are intending to schedule this before Christmas.</p>
<p>10.COUNCILLOR LAURA PRICE</p> <p>Is the Cabinet member for Adult Social Care aware that, because of a successful legal challenge, the Government is rethinking its withdrawal of the Local Welfare Assistance Fund, previously scheduled for 31st March 2015? Given that the rethink could result in additional funding being made available to Oxfordshire to support the most disadvantaged residents of the county, will she consider reinstating the Oxfordshire Support Fund?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR JUDITH HEATHCOAT, CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE</p> <p>In February this year the County Council agreed that as part of its efficiency savings, the Oxfordshire Support Fund would not continue in its original form beyond 31st March 2014. £500k was agreed as a saving and the remaining £450k has been allocated to frontline teams in children's and adults services to help them address the needs of clients for whom we are statutorily responsible, including many of the most disadvantaged residents of the county. The operational teams are already in contact with these people and better placed to target the resources at those who need them most. As part of this continuing commitment, the money is also being used to ensure all Care Leavers receive a grant to enable them to set up their first new home.</p> <p>As such, a significant amount of the funding previously available through the Support Fund is still available to those clients for whom the Council has a statutory responsibility. There are currently no plans to reduce that funding. If the government were to withdraw the Welfare Assistance Grant as planned on 31st March 2015, this Council would still maintain funding for these clients.</p> <p>We are aware that there is currently a consultation on the mechanism for funding</p>

Questions	Answers
	welfare provision post March 2015 and will be responding. The Department for Work and Pensions is also preparing a national report which we await with interest. We would not want to be making any decisions about future services until we have all the information available and so at present we are keeping all options open.
<p>11. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Given that the southern by-pass road works in Oxford are 9 months behind schedule and £600,000 over budget, what confidence do you have that other road schemes scheduled for the city this year and next will be on time and within budget?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR DAVID NIMMO SMITH, CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT</p> <p>The majority of the delay and additional cost incurred on the Kennington Roundabout scheme are as a result of a change in requirements from Thames Water from a protection of their service to a diversion of it. More recently, as a result of this and other unexpected third party works the programme was adjusted to ensure that the completion date does not slip, as this affects programmed works elsewhere in the Oxford area. The nature of highway works is such that unforeseen events do happen and can impact on cost and programme however we work hard to minimise the risk of this and have governance processes in place to robustly challenge changes in programme and cost. We clearly sympathise with those who are affected by the current work across the county but we believe the improvement in traffic flows once the works are complete will be worth the pain we are all currently suffering. Council will be pleased to note that road schemes are also being carried out elsewhere around the County. The recently completed works on the Shrivenham bypass were completed early, and on budget. The works on the A4130 Bix dual carriageway is nearing completion on budget and on time.</p>
<p>12. COUNCILLOR JOHN TANNER</p> <p>Our international universities, the BMW car plant and the Culham Science cluster are vital to voters in my division and to the rest of Oxfordshire. How far do you support the Prime Minister in his reported view that the free</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH, LEADER</p> <p>I am delighted that Councillor Tanner recognises the growing success of the Oxfordshire economy, particularly the success of our knowledge sector following Oxfordshire County Council's successful bid with partners for the Oxfordshire City Deal, and the LEP's success in bidding for our Local Growth Deal. It is, however tedious that yet again he is jumping on another band wagon without</p>

Questions	Answers
<p>movement of people within the European Union should be curtailed?</p>	<p>checking his facts. It's clear from his question that he is relying on second hand reports, whereas I prefer to deal in fact.</p> <p>I have been fortunate to have known the Prime Minister for almost fifteen years. I know he has a long term economic plan that builds a better future for all residents, including those in Cllr Tanner's division. It's clear that BMW agree with him as they have invited him on several occasions to the Cowley factory where they are investing over £500 million into the plant because they recognise the economic drive that has turned this country around since the failed policies of the previous failed Labour government led to the worst recession in almost a century.</p> <p>I absolutely recognise the value to Oxfordshire businesses of being able to recruit from abroad when this is necessary to get the right workers with the right skills. So does David Cameron. Unlike Councillor Tanner, however, I believe we are in a global competition with thriving economies such as the USA and China. In particular I therefore believe it makes sense to ensure our universities and scientific institutions have access to the best talent from across the English-speaking world, rather than just countries which happen to be on our doorstep.</p> <p>I also agree with the Prime Minister that we should do all we can to ensure that local people have the skills and knowledge to compete for those jobs when possible, and that is another major strand of our City Deal programme. The Prime Minister is clear that the uncontrolled immigration policies of the previous failed Labour government led to mass immigration that was of no benefit to those entering the country as well as the residents.</p> <p>Reform of the EU's immigration policy is vital to reassure our voters that politicians are listening to them - over three quarters of people believe immigration should be reduced. Less than one in five believe we have got the balance right. The ability to recruit excellent staff from the EU does not require an open door policy, particularly one which sees the door slammed in the face of academics and professionals from the rest of the world.</p>

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