

County Council

1 April 2014

Agenda

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 Rachel Dunn on (01865) 815279 or Rachel.dunn@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.

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, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

To: Members of the County Council

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

Tuesday, 1 April 2014 at 10.00 am

Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury



Joanna Simons
Chief Executive

March 2014

Contact Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: (01865) 815384; E-Mail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In order to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998, notice is given that Items 3, 8 and 11 will be recorded. The purpose of recording proceedings is to provide an *aide-memoire* to assist the clerk of the meeting in the drafting of minutes.

Members are asked to sign the attendance book which will be available in the corridor outside the Council Chamber. A list of members present at the meeting will be compiled from this book.

A buffet luncheon will be provided

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2014 (**CC1**) and to receive information arising from them.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note

Members are reminded that they must declare their interests orally at the meeting and specify (a) the nature of the interest and (b) which items on the agenda are the relevant items. This applies also to items where members have interests by virtue of their membership of a district council in Oxfordshire.

4. Official Communications

5. Appointments

To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.

6. Petitions and Public Address

7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public

8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

9. Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances (Pages 7 - 18)

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel (**CC9**).

Consequent on the changes to the Council's governance arrangements which came into effect following the May 2013 elections, the Independent Remuneration Panel was asked to consider that allowances that should be payable under them. This involved consideration of:

- Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) - the range of SRAs and potential amendments to certain of them.
- Leader and Deputy Leader – potential merger of the SRAs available to each of these two posts.
- Index – review the currently applicable index for members' allowances which is due to expire at the end of 2014/15.

Council is RECOMMENDED to adopt the recommendations as set out in the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

10. Oxfordshire County Council Corporate Plan 2014/15-2017/18 (Pages 19 - 56)

Report by the Head of Policy (**CC10**).

This report and Annex provides Council with the proposed Corporate Plan for 2014/15-2017/18. This is one of the plans and strategies that forms the policy framework and

requires full Council approval.

The Performance Scrutiny Committee submitted comments to the Cabinet, who approved the draft on 18 March 2014, subject to some minor amendments to reflect the comments from the scrutiny committee. These amendments are reflected in this draft.

The Cabinet RECOMMENDS Council to approve the Corporate Plan 2014/15-2017/18.

11. Audit & Governance Committee - Annual Report (Pages 57 - 72)

Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the report.

12. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 73 - 78)

Report of the Cabinet meetings held on 17 December 2013, 28 January, 4 February, 25 February and 18 March 2014 (**CC12**).

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

WOULD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS WITH NOTICE MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE PROPER OFFICER IN WRITING BY 9.00 AM ON THE MONDAY BEFORE THE MEETING

13. Motion From Councillor Arash Fatemian

“The recent flooding in our County posed very real and difficult challenges to the people of Oxfordshire. The efforts and achievements of our staff - and of our communities - in responding to those challenges was an impressive testament both to public service and to community support. Many people devoted long hours and hard work to keeping people safe and informed. It represented the best of Oxfordshire.

Consequently this Council applauds the efforts and achievements of everyone who worked so hard to alleviate the flooding this winter.”

14. Motion From Councillor Jean Fooks

“Council notes :

- Air pollution has a detrimental effect on health;
- Traffic is the main source of pollution from NOx and particulates in Oxford and other town centres in Oxfordshire.

Council recognises that transport is essential to enable people to move around the County but also recognises that Oxfordshire County Council has a duty of care to protect the health of its residents.

Council therefore recommends that:

- The Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board recognises the significance of air quality as an outcome indicator in Oxfordshire, and addresses the issue by including air quality within the Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;
- the impact on the health of Oxfordshire residents, from NOx and particulates, should be considered as new large developments are proposed and new transport strategies developed. This is immediately relevant in the development of LTP4, the updated Oxford Transport Strategy and the Westgate and Northern Gateway developments;
- all transport strategies should include an emphasis on the possible use of pollution-free fuels, freight consolidation strategies and alternative transport modes such as cycling to reduce health risks to residents and visitors alike.

Council further asks the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider Air Quality and its effects on Health as soon as possible.

15. Motion From Councillor Susanna Pressel

"The floods in January 2014 affected many Oxfordshire households very badly and caused chaos for traffic in many parts of the County. In the City alone they are estimated to have cost the country's economy about £40 million. We are told that it costs 8 times more to deal with the aftermath of flooding than it does to prevent floods, therefore Council:

- urges the Leader to write to the government, asking them to reach an urgent decision on contributing a substantial sum to the cost of the western conveyance channel/Oxford relief channel;
- urges our partners and local businesses also to contribute;
- urges Thames Water to carry out work as soon as possible to prevent or at least reduce the amount of sewage overflow that occurs when the level of the groundwater is high; and
- urges the Environment Agency and other partners to continue to carry out other projects that will help to retain water further upstream, if this can be done without flooding homes."

16. Motion From Councillor David Williams

"This Council is concerned at the level of bee colony collapse in the UK and Oxfordshire with a 60% decline over the last 10 Years and the threat to our food supply as bees provide over 80% of crop pollination. With this in view and taking into account the Councils responsibilities for conserving biodiversity this Council calls on the Secretary of State for the Environment to extend his recent moratorium on the use of neonicotinoids to an outright ban.

The Council therefore asks Cabinet to:

- (i) launch a programme that would seek to support and protect bees focused on establishing bee colonies in its green spaces and wild areas with bee friendly plants;

- (ii) establish and fund a 'Bee Friendly Wildlife Group' of officers charged with promoting bee keeping in Oxfordshire.
- (iii) encourage the use of bee hives on municipal land and in the gardens of volunteers and encourage forms of gardening and land use that support pollinating insects. The team should also visit schools to educate children about the relationship between bees and biodiversity and the problems surrounding bee mortality;
- (iv) ask the Bee Friendly Wildlife Group to commit resources to mapping Bee-lines (1) and to act in an advisory agent too local farmers on their crop planting operations. The County could also join with Berkshire and Buckinghamshire and Oxon Wildlife Trust in their Friendly Gardening Awards scheme which includes the category of a 'nectar bar' (2)."

17. Motion From Councillor David Williams

"Flooding in Oxfordshire has recently caused many millions of pounds worth of damage to homes and businesses. With the prospect of extreme weather conditions such as sustained torrential downpours being repeated on an ever increasing scale due to global warming it is imperative that the County Council not only puts in place local engineering flood defences but also accepts that it must play its part in flood prevention by contributing to the campaign to prevent climate change. With this in view the Council calls on the Cabinet to commission a full officer's report in conjunction with other authorities that illustrates the local causes of flooding in the whole County and to outline how working with other stakeholders such as the Environment Agency cost effective local measures can be introduced to mitigate the effects of increasingly freak weather episodes.

The comprehensive range of works suggested should not include measures that merely divert flood waters away from particular area of the County and relocate the flooding to other towns and villages. The report should give a reasonable estimate of the costs involved and with other authorities the County should seek such monies from Governmental sources.

In approaching the Government the County should also be clear that expensive local engineered solutions will not stop the problem and that it is now more important than ever that the Conservative/Liberal coalition actually does something to honour its pledge to be the 'Greenest Government ever'".

18. Motion From Councillor John Sanders

"This Council welcomes the decision by Cabinet to go ahead with implementing the project to ease traffic on the A40 at Shores Green, Witney, as recommended by the independent planning inspector and the Conservative Secretary of State for Transport. It now urges that the project be implemented without delay in order to ease chronic traffic congestion in the area."

19. Motion From Councillor Mike Beal

“In the light of an environmental impact report on HS2 construction traffic on Banbury, highlighted by BBC Oxford recently, will Council now look again at road infrastructure including a new south to east link road for the town before gridlock ensues for Grimsbury residents and in turn all of Banbury?”

20. Motion From Councillor Glynis Phillips

“This Council notes that significant new Public Health contracts commenced on 1 April and requests that a progress report on those contracts be brought to the November 4th meeting listing those contracts and setting out:

- (a) the numbers of customers using the service in the first 6 months of the new contract, with comparative figures for the usage of the equivalent service in the 6 months to 30 September 2013;
- (b) the training provided to staff on any new ICT systems which underpin the service to which the contact refers; and
- (c) the cost savings which were anticipated under the new contracts and the cost savings which have been realised in the first 6 months, detailing what unexpected costs if any had been incurred.”

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 31 March 2014 at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders