

These notes indicate the decisions taken at this meeting and the officers responsible for taking any resulting action. For background documentation please refer to the agenda and supporting papers circulated to all members of the Council and available on the Council's web site (www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.)

If you have a query please contact Deborah Miller (Tel: (01865) 815384; E-Mail: deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

COUNTY COUNCIL - TUESDAY, 1 APRIL 2014

RECOMMENDATIONS	DECISIONS	ACTION
<p>1. Minutes</p> <p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2014 (CC1) and to receive information arising from them.</p>	<p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2014 were approved and signed, subject to the addition of the recorded vote directly prior to the resolution on page 5 of the minutes.</p>	<p>HLC (D.Miller)</p>
<p>2. Apologies for Absence</p>	<p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bulmer, Godden and Nimmo-Smith and Reynolds.</p>	<p>HLC (R. Dunn)</p>
<p>3. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>There were none.</p>	
<p>4. Official Communications</p>	<p>The Chairman reported as follows:</p> <p>Council congratulated and welcomed new County Councillor for the Charlgrove & Watlington Division – Councillor Steve Harrod.</p> <p>The death of Honorary Alderman Charles Shouler, who was a County Councillor for the Bicester South Division 1989 - 2013, died on 20 March 2013. Councillors Hudspeth, Brighouse, Patrick and Mrs Fulljames</p>	<p>Cllr Harrod</p>

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	<p>paid tribute to the former County Councillor and Honorary Alderman. The Council then observed a Minute's Silence in his memory.</p> <p>Members' attention was drawn to the Governance Review currently being undertaken by the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked all staff who were involved in the organisation of the Chairman's Charity Dinner.</p>	<p>All Member's to note</p> <p>All Staff</p>
<p>5. Appointments</p> <p>To make any changes to the membership of the Cabinet, scrutiny and other committees on the nomination of political groups.</p>	<p>RESOLVED: to note the following appointments:</p> <p>(i) replace Councillor Beal with Councillor John Christie on the Employees Joint Consultative Committee;</p> <p>(ii) replace Councillor David Bartholomew with Councillor Sandy Lovatt on the Education Scrutiny Committee;</p> <p>(iii) replace Susanna Pressel with Councillor Nick Hards on the Audit & Governance Committee;</p> <p>(iv) Report of the Returning Officer at Annex 3 to the Schedule of Business.</p>	<p>HLC (S. Whitehead/ R. Dunn)</p>
<p>6. Petitions and Public Address</p>	<p>There were none.</p>	
<p>7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public</p>	<p>There were none.</p>	
<p>8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council</p>	<p>22 Questions with notice were asked. Details of the questions and answers and the supplementary questions and answers (where asked) will be set out</p>	

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	<p>in Annex 1 to the Minutes.</p> <p>In relation to Question 1 (Question from Councillor Lilly to Councillor Carter) Councillor Carter undertook to provide Councillor Lilly with a written answer detailing what other invest-to-save energy projects were currently being considered.</p> <p>In relation to Question 19 (Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Tilley) Councillor Tilley undertook to ask the School's Forum about the Sparsity Factor.</p> <p>In relation to Question 21 (Question from Councillor Patrick to Councillor Nimmo Smith) Councillor Hudspeth undertook to provide Councillor Patrick with a copy of the Transport Audit for Witney with a break-down of how subsidy was divided.</p>	<p>Cllr Carter</p> <p>Cllr Tilley</p> <p>Cllr Hudspeth</p>
<p>9. Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to adopt the</p>	<p>The amendment by Councillor Pressel, detailed in Annex 1 to the Schedule of Business, not having been proposed and seconded was considered as dropped under Council Procedure Rule 14.2.</p> <p>Agreed by 55 votes to 3.</p>	<p>HLC (R.</p>

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<i>recommendations as set out in the Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.</i>		Dunn)
<p>10. Oxfordshire County Council Corporate Plan 2014/15-2017/18</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>The Cabinet RECOMMENDS Council to approve the Corporate Plan 2014/15-2017/18.</i></p>	Agreed by 46 votes to 13.	C. Exec (M. Scott)
<p>11. Audit & Governance Committee - Annual Report</p> <p><i>Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the report.</i></p>	<p>Agreed (nem con)</p> <p><i>Note: Councillor Wilmshurst undertook to provide Councillor Harris with further detail on the internal control actions agreed – referred to on page 5 of the report.</i></p>	<p>HLC (I. Dyson)</p> <p>Cllr Wilmshurst</p>
<p>12. Report of the Cabinet</p> <p>Report of the Cabinet meetings held on 17 December 2013, 28 January, 4 February, 25 February and 18 March 2014 (CC12).</p>	<p>The Council received the report of the Cabinet.</p> <p>In relation to paragraph 6 (The proposed Home to School Transport Policy) (Question from Councillor Howson) Councillor Tilley undertook to write a cross-party letter to the Secretary of State, asking him to look</p>	Cllr Tilley

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	at the issue of academies refusing extra children in Oxfordshire.	
<p>13. Motion From Councillor Arash Fatemian</p> <p>“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.</p> <p>Consequently this Council applauds the efforts and achievements of everyone who worked so hard to alleviate the flooding this winter.”</p>	Agreed (nem con).	All to note.
<p>14. Motion From Councillor Jean Fooks</p> <p>“Council notes :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p> <p>Council therefore recommends that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	Agreed by 34 votes to 2, with 25 abstentions.	Director of Public Health & Director for Environment & Economy

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<p>Oxfordshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Council further asks the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider Air Quality and its effects on Health as soon as possible.</p>		<p>HLC (J. Dean)</p>
<p>15. Motion From Councillor Susanna Pressel</p> <p>"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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 	<p>Agreed by 56 votes to 1.</p>	<p>Cllr Hudspeth</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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." 		
<p>16. Motion From Councillor David Williams(x2), , J Sanders, Beal and Phillips</p> <p>"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.</p> <p>The Council therefore asks Cabinet to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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 	<p>The time being 3.40 pm the meeting closed and therefore motions 16 to 20 were considered to be dropped.</p>	

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<p>pollinating insects. The team should also visit schools to educate children about the relationship between bees and biodiversity and the problems surrounding bee mortality;</p> <p>(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)."</p>		
<p>17. Motion From Councillor David Williams</p> <p>"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.</p> <p>The comprehensive range of works suggested should not include measures that merely divert flood waters away from</p>		

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<p>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.</p> <p>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'".</p>		
<p>18. Motion From Councillor John Sanders</p> <p>"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."</p>		
<p>19. Motion From Councillor Mike Beal</p> <p>"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?"</p>		
<p>20. Motion From Councillor Glynis Phillips</p> <p>"This Council notes that significant new Public Health contracts commenced on 1</p>		

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<p>April and requests that a progress report on those contracts be brought to the November 4th meeting listing those contracts and setting out:</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(b) the training provided to staff on any new ICT systems which underpin the service to which the contact refers; and</p> <p>(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.”</p>		