

County Council

1 July 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 July 2014 at 10.30 am in the Council Chamber

County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND



Joanna Simons
Chief Executive

June 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 9 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

A presentation on the outcome of the Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers will be held at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber for all Members of the County Council.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. 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.

3. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2014 (CC1) and to receive information arising from them.

4. Official Communications

5. Appointments

(a) ***RECOMMEND to Council to add the Local Government Association Fire Commission to the list of 'strategic' Outside Bodies to which the Cabinet makes appointments and subject to their agreement to the above to make an appointment;***

(b) ***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. Ofsted Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers

Report of the Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers (CC9).

The Oxfordshire County Council's provision for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers was recently inspected by Ofsted as part of its regular programme of local authority inspection.

The inspection took place between 29 April and 21 May. The report will be published on 30 June 2014 and therefore is unavailable to be circulated with this Agenda.

The Director for Children, Education & Families, will share the outcomes of the report with Members and give a brief presentation, drawing attention to the key points to emerge from the inspection prior to the formal meeting of Council.

Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the report and discuss its implications for the Council.

10. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 7 - 12)

Report of the Cabinet meetings held on 15 April 2014, 13 May 2014 and 17 June 2014 (CC10).

11. Military Liaison Annual Report 2013-14 (Pages 13 - 24)

Report by the Chief Executive (CC11).

This Military Liaison Annual Report provides an overview of the work undertaken in support of the Armed Forces over the course of 2013/14.

Structured to reflect the areas of engagement, the report highlights the activities and achievements over the past year.

Council are RECOMMENDED to note the report.

12. County Council Meeting Dates (Pages 25 - 32)

The report of the Monitoring Officer containing the schedule of meeting dates proposed for the 2015/16 Council Year is attached (CC12).

The schedule has been drawn up to reflect the various rules about frequency of meetings set out in the Council's Constitution.

The final finance settlement in 2015 and future years is not expected until early to mid-February. This, together with the deadline for business rates forecasts from district councils being 31 January, means a Council meeting to agree the budget on 10 February (the second Tuesday in the month as set out in the Constitution) is unworkable. It is suggested that the Council meeting in 2015 is rearranged to 17 February 2015 and that it is scheduled for the third week in February going forward.

Linked to the above and to allow for the provisional settlement to be in late December (which has been the pattern for the last two years) it is suggested that the Cabinet meeting in January 2015 is rearranged to 27 January and that it is scheduled for that week going forward.

Based on the Constitution, the Council meeting in April 2015 would be 7 April 2015. This is the day after Easter Monday and in the past this has caused difficulties for Members. It is suggested that Rule 2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules be waived to allow the meeting to be held on 14 April 2015.

In previous years the December Council meeting has been cancelled or reduced to half a day due to its proximity to the November date leading to lack of business. It is suggested that from 2015/16 the two meetings be replaced by one meeting held in late November.

Council is RECOMMENDED to agree:

- (a) **the changes to the dates of Cabinet and Council meetings in January and February 2015 and going forward to reflect the changed budget process;**
- (b) **the schedule of meeting dates for the 2015/16 Council Year and in particular:**
 - (i) **to waive Rule 2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules to allow the 2015 April Council meeting to be held on 14 April;**
 - (ii) **that from 2016 the November and December Council meetings be replaced by a single meeting to be held in the last week in November;**
 - (iii) **that Rule 2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules be amended to reflect the changes agreed above.**

13. Virements to Council (Pages 33 - 42)

Report by the Chief Finance Officer (CC13).

Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the virements larger than £0.5m for Children, Education and Families, Social & Community Services and Environment & Economy directorate and the associated carry forwards as set out in Annex 1.

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

14. Motion From Councillor Bob Johnston

“Transport connectivity which is vital for Oxfordshire’s economic future is now at crisis point. We do have outline proposals for a new transport plan. However much of it is too car focused. The tram-train is an innovative way of tackling some of the County’s problems, which would be as effective as individual car use and would be more environmentally friendly.

The tram-train is a hybrid vehicle which can use both the traditional heavy rail and dedicated light rail tracks. The advantage of this system to Oxfordshire is that it can use existing city centre heavy rail facilities with usually only minimal alterations, and on to which light rail tracks can be added where no heavy rail lines exist. Lines could run out to Witney, Kidlington and Horspath. Tram-trains can run on roads where required, with appropriate signalling. Such systems are very popular on the continent Karlsruhe is a good example and they are to be trialled in the UK along the Sheffield to Rotherham corridor.

Council therefore calls for a report to go to Cabinet which scopes and costs the project in outline and also to identify potential sources of finance. Such as project could potentially form a part of Network Rails Control Period 5 investment programme which runs from 2014 to 2019.”

15. Motion From Councillor John Sanders

"Oxfordshire has been identified as one of the areas where there could be a potential to frack for shale gas. Rightly many residents particularly in the north of the County are concerned about the implications for their communities. This Council believes that its members need to have the opportunity to discuss the issues and asks that a Themed Debate is organised in the near future to allow that to happen."

16. Motion From Councillor Pete Handley

"Would the Council agree that at all meetings of The Council and Sub Committee's where members and staff are taking part, all tablets and computers are turned off as this can interfere with the microphones etc within the Council building. They also give problems to those with hearing aids due to the clicking noises these devices make which in turn make it hard for them to take part in those meetings."

17. 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."

18. Motion From Councillor David Williams

"As the County Council can now fulfil its legal obligations to ensure a good rate of return by investing its reserves and pension funds in companies that are operating renewable energy generation locally and nationally the County consider it is now the appropriate time to disinvest in fossil fuel industries. This would apply not only to the £42million invested directly into fossil fuel companies by the pension fund but also Unit Trusts that have fossil fuel burning concerns as a part of their general investment portfolio.

This move would conform and reinforce the Councils existing commitment to moving to a low carbon economy and run in line with moves to disinvest at the Universities and the City Council.

As this is budgetary matter the County Council therefore directs the Cabinet to introduce such a change of policy to all investments directly under their day to day management via contingencies and reserves. The Council's desire to disinvest in fossil fuel companies should be made known to the Trustees of the Pension Fund for their consideration and subsequent action."

19. 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 Council’s 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 to 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).”

20. 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”’.

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 30 June at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders