



To: Members of the Cabinet

Notice of a Meeting of the Cabinet

Tuesday, 4 February 2014 at 1.00 pm

County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND

Joanna Simons

Joanna Simons
Chief Executive

January 2014

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Membership

Councillors

Ian Hudspeth	<i>Leader of the Council</i>
Rodney Rose	<i>Deputy Leader of the Council</i>
Mrs Judith Heathcoat	<i>Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care</i>
Nick Carter	<i>Cabinet Member for Business & Customer Services</i>
Melinda Tilley	<i>Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families</i>
Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	<i>Cabinet Member for Cultural & Community Services</i>
David Nimmo Smith	<i>Cabinet Member for Environment</i>
Arash Fatemian	<i>Cabinet Member for Finance</i>
Louise Chapman	<i>Cabinet Member for Policy Co-ordination</i>
Hilary Hibbert-Biles	<i>Cabinet Member for Public Health & the Voluntary Sector</i>

The Agenda is attached. Decisions taken at the meeting will become effective at the end of the working day on 12 February 2014 unless called in by that date for review by the appropriate Scrutiny Committee. Copies of this Notice, Agenda and supporting papers are circulated to all Members of the County Council.

Date of next meeting: 25 February 2014

County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk Fax: 01865 783195 Media Enquiries 01865 323870

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.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

- guidance note opposite

3. Questions from County Councillors

Any county councillor may, by giving notice to the Proper Officer by 9 am two working days before the meeting, ask a question on any matter in respect of the Cabinet's delegated powers.

The number of questions which may be asked by any councillor at any one meeting is limited to two (or one question with notice and a supplementary question at the meeting) and the time for questions will be limited to 30 minutes in total. As with questions at Council, any questions which remain unanswered at the end of this item will receive a written response.

Questions submitted prior to the agenda being despatched are shown below and will be the subject of a response from the appropriate Cabinet Member or such other councillor or officer as is determined by the Cabinet Member, and shall not be the subject of further debate at this meeting. Questions received after the despatch of the agenda, but before the deadline, will be shown on the Schedule of Addenda circulated at the meeting, together with any written response which is available at that time.

4. Petitions and Public Address

5. The Proposed Home to School Transport Policy (Pages 1 - 24)

Cabinet Member: Children, Education & Families

Forward Plan Ref: 2013/089

Contact: Neil Darlington, Admissions and Transport Services Manager Tel: (01865) 815844

Report by the Director for children's Services (**CA5**).

The Council has undertaken a consultation with the public, headteachers and other interested parties upon a number of proposed changes to the Home to School Transport Policy.

The proposed changes have been made in the light of the current difficult financial situation in the UK, the continuing impact this will have on local government finances, and the need to ensure that the Home to School Transport Policy is equitable.

The report contains an analysis of the responses to the consultation.

The Cabinet is asked to consider the consultation responses and then to decide which, if any, of the proposed changes are to be implemented.

The Cabinet is RECOMMENDED to adopt the following proposals:

- (a) ***to provide free transport to the nearest available school (option A1) and consider, in response to consultation feedback, which, if either or both of the following options, to add to the 'nearest available school':***
 - (i) ***Nearest available school in Oxfordshire;***
 - (ii) ***A 'split village' entitlement where at least 25% of addresses, but not all, are nearest to the catchment school and the rest are nearest to another school; in such cases free transport to be provided to the catchment school for all addresses;***
 - (b) ***to introduce the new policy from September 2015 for children starting primary school or transferring to secondary school, and to phase the policy change in year by year as children start schools or transfer between phases of education. Those in receipt of free travel under the current policy in September 2014 would continue to receive it on the same terms until they leave that phase of education or move to an alternative school; (proposal B2);***
 - (c) ***to increase the charges for concessionary travel and post 16 travel by 10% in September 2014. This would involve increasing concessionary fares in 2014/15 to £290.40 (£96.80 per two terms of the 6 term year) for those who live under 3 miles from the school attended, and £541.20 per annum (£180.40 per two terms of the 6 term year) for those who live over 3 miles from the school attended;***
 - (d) ***from September 2015, to increase concessionary and post-16 fares by either:***
 - (i) ***by 8% per year for the following three years (proposal C2) or***
 - (ii) ***by 5% per year for the following five years (proposal C3);***
 - (e) ***from 2014 to remove all references to collaborative learning transport from the Home to School Transport Policy (proposal D);***
 - (f) ***in order to administer the changes, particularly the determination of the "nearest available school" and the need to process an anticipated increase in the number of Home to School Transport appeals, the Admissions Team to be increased, for two years, by an additional 1 Full Time Equivalent (at a cost of £34,923 per annum).***
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