

County Council

8 September 2015

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 Glenn Watson on (01865) 815270 or glenn.watson@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, 8 September 2015 at 10.00 am

County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND

Joanna Simons

Joanna Simons
Chief Executive

August 2015

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, 7 and 12 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 - 22)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2015 (**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. Senior Officer Appointments (Pages 23 - 30)

Report by the Chief Human Resources Officer (**CC9**)

As a result of the current Chief Executive leaving the Council at the end of September 2015, it is a legal requirement for the Council to appoint a new Head of Paid Service.

At the last meeting of Council on 14 July, the Council commenced the statutory procedure for making this appointment, nominating Mr Peter Clark, the Chief Legal Officer. Council also noted that if it wished to appoint the Chief Legal Officer as the Head of Paid Service then it would also need to make a nomination to the post of Monitoring Officer. This is because the law does not allow the same person to be both a Monitoring Officer and a Head of Paid Service for the same authority. As a result, Council nominated Mr Nick Graham, the Deputy Head of Law and Culture, to be the successor Monitoring Officer. These nominations were subject to consultation with Cabinet Members. No objections were made to either appointment and so this report sets out the procedural requirements for Council to finalise these senior officer appointments.

Council is RECOMMENDED to confirm the following:

- (a) that the Chief Legal Officer be appointed as the Council's Head of Paid Service;***
- (b) that the Deputy Head of Law and Culture be appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer;***

- (c) ***that both appointments take effect on the cessation of the current Chief Executive's employment with the Council.***

10. Treasury Management Outturn 2014/15 (Pages 31 - 52)

Report by Chief Finance Officer (**CC10**).

The report sets out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the financial year 2014/15 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report includes Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator Outturn, Investment Strategy, and interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2014/15.

11. Partnerships Update Report (Pages 53 - 80)

Report by the Head of Policy (**CC11**).

This Annual report to Council aims to set out some of the key activities over the past year of both the Oxfordshire Partnership, and a number of the key formal partnerships within which the County Council plays a part.

This report provides an update on the Oxfordshire-wide partnerships which are critical in progressing key countywide priorities, enabling partners to work across the themes of a thriving Oxfordshire, including economic growth, health and wellbeing, thriving communities, and support to the most vulnerable.

Each partnership report addresses the following points: the current focus for the Partnership; the personnel (Chairman and supporting staff) of the Partnership; the Partnership's governance arrangements; the Partnership's key achievements in the last year; the aims for the Partnership in the year ahead; the key challenges for the Partnership and how these will be addressed going forward.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report.

12. Director of Public Health Annual Report (Pages 81 - 160)

Report by the Director of Public Health (**CC12**).

The annual report summarises key issues associated with the Public Health of the County. It includes details of progress over the past year as well as information on future work.

It is an independent report for all organisations and individuals.

The report covers the following areas:

- Chapter 1: The Demographic Challenge
- Chapter 2: Health, Houses and Roads
- Chapter 3: Breaking the Cycle of Disadvantage
- Chapter 4: Mental Health
- Chapter 5: Lifestyle and Health: We are what we eat, drink, smoke and do
- Chapter 6: Fighting Killer Diseases

The report has also been considered during July 2015 at the Oxfordshire Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board and Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet.

Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the report.

13. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 161 - 164)

Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 21 July 2015 (CC13).

14. Connecting Oxfordshire: Local Transport Plan 2015 - 2031 (Pages 165 - 1030)

Connecting Oxfordshire: Local Transport Plan 2015-2031 (LTP4) was approved by Cabinet on 21 July 2015 and recommended for adoption by Full Council at its meeting in September 2015. This replaces LTP3 that was adopted as Council policy on 5 April 2011 and subsequent approved revision on 10 July 2012. The 16 year timescale of the Plan gives major benefits in terms of providing a transport strategy that covers the period of the district councils' Local Plans and allows for long term planning of major infrastructure.

Connecting Oxfordshire has been developed over the past 18 months, in response to the rapidly changing national and local growth, economic development, infrastructure planning and funding agendas. The aim has been to develop a comprehensive policy and strategy framework to maximise opportunities for Oxfordshire, building on the success over the past two years on City Deal and other initiatives, and complement the Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and supporting documents.

It is next proposed to be updated in spring 2016. In the meantime, the LTP will continue to inform our strategic infrastructure planning work, bids for Growth Funding and other sources, and the updated Strategic Economic Plan. Thereafter, LTP4 will be reviewed and updated regularly (at least on an annual basis), with any interim changes being made with the agreement of the Deputy Director for Strategy & Infrastructure Planning and Cabinet Member for Environment, provided that these are presented to County Council for approval within 12 months.

This report outlines the further changes to LTP4 since approval by Cabinet in July 2015. This includes a proposed timeline for a revised County Rail Strategy (for adoption in spring 2016), and updates to the Local Area and Supporting Strategies, including Freight, as requested at July Cabinet. The annexes to the report have been circulated to all Members of the Council only and are available at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.

Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) **adopt Connecting Oxfordshire: Local Transport Plan 2015-2031 (LTP4) as council policy; and**
- (b) **instruct the Deputy Director of Environment and Economy (Strategy & Infrastructure Planning), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment, to keep the document under review and to make any necessary changes, subject to any such changes being reported to County Council for approval within 12 months.**

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

15. Motion From Councillor Laura Price

“Since May 2015 several of our Community Hospitals have undergone changes to the services they deliver and how those services are delivered. Individually these changes have not been deemed appropriate for public consultation and communities have been left feeling cheated of an opportunity to engage.

These hospitals form an integral part of the work of Oxfordshire Adult Social Care and are crucial in providing seamless appropriate and timely care for vulnerable elderly and disabled people in the County.

This Council, therefore, asks that in their role as commissioner, the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Oxfordshire County Council urgently co-ordinate a full public consultation on the future shape of Oxfordshire's Community Hospitals before further incremental changes damage the public's relationship with these vital services.”

16. Motion From Councillor Kevin Bulmer

“As we all know, this Council is facing extreme pressure to reduce expenditure, to the extent that we are now considering closing some of our Household Waste Recycling Centres in order to save some £350,000 annually. An alternative to these closures would be to charge residents for their use. However, long-standing legislation from the Civic Amenities Act 1967 to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 has required local authorities to provide free-to-use household waste recycling centres for their residents to dispose of household rubbish and recycling. The government's 2011 waste review upheld this principle.

The government is concerned these charges will inconvenience residents; increase fly-tipping and back-yard burning; and make recycling harder for people rather than its stated objective of making it easier. The government believes that residents should continue to have free access to household waste recycling centres in their local authority area.

However, when the alternative to 'free access' becomes 'no access', this argument loses some of its impetus. In spite of the noted success of kerbside recycling in Oxfordshire, there are still a million-plus trips made to HWRCs in this county annually. Clearly, a nominal charge of a pound a time would generate far more revenue than the £350,000 savings target.

This Council calls upon the Leader of the Council to send a letter to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government requesting an urgent re-evaluation of the government's stance, thereby to enable LAs to charge residents to use HWRCs, in order to prevent their closure."

17. Motion by Councillor Roz Smith

"This Council recognises the invaluable work undertaken by volunteers running village halls and community centres throughout Oxfordshire. The community buildings the volunteers look after provide facilities such as lunch clubs, exercise classes, pre-schools, libraries and other activities to improve health and wellbeing.

Austerity measures and budgets cuts have meant grants towards the costs of improving and maintaining the village halls and community centres are diminishing. The volunteers have to fund raise even more vigorously to maintain and upgrade the buildings they look after. Most building work on village halls and centres is liable for VAT at the standard rate of 20%; so, for instance, a village hall committee raising funds for a £100,000 extension has to find another £20,000 for the VAT bill. This is a tax on voluntary effort.

This Council agrees to show support for the National Village Halls Forum campaign to reduce the VAT rate for building improvements to charitable organisations by writing to all Oxfordshire MPs to ask them to support the campaign to reduce this tax burden on charitable organisations looking after our village halls and community buildings when considering the next national budget."

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 7 September at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders