

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting held on Tuesday, 11 July 2017 commencing at 10.30 am and finishing at 3.30 pm.

Present:

Councillor Zoé Patrick – in the Chair

Councillors:

Sobia Afridi	Mike Fox-Davies	Jeannette Matelot
Lynda Atkins	Stefan Gawrysiak	Charles Mathew
Jamila Begum Azad	Mark Gray	Glynis Phillips
Hannah Banfield	Carmen Griffiths	Susanna Pressel
David Bartholomew	Pete Handley	Laura Price
S.E. Bartington	Jenny Hannaby	Eddie Reeves
Maurice Billington	Neville F. Harris	G.A. Reynolds
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Steve Harrod	Judy Roberts
Paul Buckley	Mrs Judith Heathcoat	Alison Rooke
Kevin Bulmer	Hilary Hibbert-Biles	Dan Sames
Nick Carter	John Howson	Gill Sanders
Mark Cherry	Ian Hudspeth	John Sanders
Dr Simon Clarke	Tony Ilott	Les Sibley
Yvonne Constance OBE	Dr Kirsten Johnson	Emily Smith
Ian Corkin	Bob Johnston	Roz Smith
Helen Evans	Liz Leffman	Lawrie Stratford
Arash Fatemian	Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	Alan Thompson
Neil Fawcett	Mark Lygo	Emma Turnbull
Nicholas Field-Johnson	D. McIlveen	Michael Waive
Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor	Kieron Mallon	Richard Webber

The Council considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting and decided as set out below. Except insofar as otherwise specified, the reasons for the decisions are contained in the agenda and reports, copies of which are attached to the signed Minutes.

136/17 MINUTES

(Agenda Item 1)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 March 2017 and 16 May 2017 were approved and signed subject to the revised list of those present at Annex 3 to the schedule of business and removing the text 'failed' from Minute 127/17 and adding Councillor Judith Heathcoat to 3rd paragraph of Minute 135/17.

137/17 OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

(Agenda Item 4)

The Chairman reported as follows:

The Chairman reminded members that following the meeting, the Assistant Chief Fire Officer would provide a briefing for all members on Emergency Planning in light of the Grenfell incident and recent terrorist attacks.

The Chairman invited members to support or join her on the Maggie's Culture Crawl of Oxford which would be held on 29th September to raise funds for these excellent centres all over the country which have been set up to support anyone or their relatives and friends who are touched by cancer. A link to the JustGiving page would be sent round.

Council congratulated those who had received the Oxfordshire Internships Awards, volunteer certificates and those receiving the BEM awards from the Queen's New Year's Honours list for service given in Oxfordshire.

Council congratulated officers and school staff for Oxfordshire being named as one of the best in the country for tackling anti-LGBT bullying in schools. Stonewall, Britain's lesbian, gay, bi and trans equality charity, listed the council in third place out of around 40 councils in its Education Equality index 2017, which rates local areas for combating this form of bullying and celebrating difference in schools.

138/17 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(Agenda Item 7)

Question from Mr Tom Hayes to Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Leader of the Council

Air pollution has gone up in parts of Oxford and the problem is likely to get worse before it gets better, contributing to hundreds of avoidable deaths every year. [Public Health England report that 5.3% of deaths in the county are attributable to particulate air pollution.](#)

Everybody visiting, living, and working in St Clement's is breathing air that is getting worse, possibly causing them to get very ill. St Clement's is the most polluted part of the city and latest figures show its air quality getting worse, in large part because of emissions from local transportation.

Oxford City Council monitors air quality because it has a statutory duty to review local air quality. The results are used to assess air pollution in relation to guidelines and objectives that are set by the European Union and the UK Government. That same Government is calling on local councils like my own to draw up action plans for tackling poor air quality. However, the council which controls the roads and how they are used in the city is this one. My council has to engage with yours on all measures to improve air quality in Oxford.

Can you tell me what five specific steps this county council is taking as local transport authority to clean the air that St Clement's breathes every day, and the total sum of money being spent this municipal year? In choosing your five steps, I would welcome you picking those which you believe are leading to the largest and quickest impacts on air quality.

Thank you in advance for answering this question in detail."

Councillor Hudspeth answered as follows:

Based on 2016 monitoring undertaken by the City Council, NO₂ levels across Oxford have dropped by 35% in the last ten years. Monitoring also confirms that air quality in St Clement's has improved albeit it is recognised that levels here are now above other areas and what are considered to be more acceptable values.

Air pollution is clearly an important factor to people's health and the Public Health England Indicator is useful in highlighting this issue and enabling us to keep it under surveillance. The report quoted is from 2014 and later figures are available for 2015 which show the estimate for Oxfordshire is now 4.7%, however the indicator is based on a model and it is widely accepted that the actual figure could vary widely from these estimates.

Long-term exposure to air pollution contributes a small amount to the deaths of a large number of individuals rather than being solely responsible for deaths as demonstrated below:

Risk Factor	Annual attributable mortality in England	Deaths for which the risk factor is the main cause of death
Long-term exposure to particulate air pollution	25,000	Small number
Alcohol	22,481	6,000
Smoking	79,700	43,400

Overall, monitoring trends in the city are very encouraging and confirm that air quality in Oxford is getting better; a reflection of the positive work both councils have done over the years.

This includes, in 2013, the implementation of the Low Emission Zone in Oxford city centre. Developed by both councils the LEZ requires all bus and coach services travelling through certain city centre streets to meet minimum emissions standards. The benefit of the LEZ is much wider given a majority of the buses and coaches that travel to the city centre also pass through other areas including St Clement's.

There is clearly more work to do though. Enabling and delivering more housing including more affordable housing in the city would have a positive impact by reducing demand on the network. This is the current challenge for

the City Council's Local Plan currently out for consultation. In the meantime, the County Council has an ambitious Local Transport Plan, which puts forward proposals, as part of the Oxford Transport Strategy (OTS), to introduce a zero emission zone in Oxford city centre by 2020. A joint County-City study is already underway and due to be published soon.

The transport strategy also includes proposals for mass transit and a step change in walking and cycling that will be enabled and supported by an ambitious agenda of road space reallocation, and a much stronger focus on reducing the causes and impacts of congestion, which is a major contributor to air pollution in the city.

Since the adoption of the OTS the County has been working on a number of corridor studies to develop further proposals for mass transit, pedestrian and cycle improvements on the city's main transport corridors. The corridor studies mean we are better positioned to secure improvements or funding directly from development and take advantage of central government funding opportunities when they become available. Already completed studies are published on the County's website with further studies planned in the future including, but not limited to, St Clement's.

The strategy also suggests a Workplace Parking Levy or congestion charge scheme could be implemented in the city, and in November last year, the County Council's Cabinet resolved to consider whether either would be right for Oxford and to report the findings of an outline business case at a future Cabinet meeting. If implemented this would help to manage traffic growth in the city and provide a more reliable funding stream to help deliver the ambitions of the OTS, including reducing transport-related air pollution in the city.

Advances in technology will also be key to improving air quality and the County have already been supporting trials of wireless induction charged electric buses, which run fully on electricity. As technology continues to develop, with increasing speed, we expect electric buses and other types of low (or zero emission) public transport to become more widespread and we will support pilots where appropriate, working with businesses and research institutions.

Mr Hayes asked the following Supplementary Question:

Clearly the zero emission zone is the one policy area in which the city and county can have the largest and quickest impact. I'm interested in the steps that the County are taking in moving towards that zone and specifically whether it will apply to buses by 2020 and whether you yourself have received the personal assurances from those bus companies that they will be able to meet the zero emission zone standards and in particular I would like to know whether you can give any assurances that St. Clement's will see an improvement in pollution levels as a result of that zone.

Councillor Hudspeth answered as follows:

Back in 2007 when I first became Cabinet member for Transport one of the first projects we embarked upon was the low emission zone in the centre of the City, working jointly very well with the executive member in the City and at that stage, 2013 seemed a long way off. At that stage the bus companies were not guaranteeing a low emission or euro6. They have got better than that and have enhanced that. Working together is really key to delivering the zero emission zone within the city.

It is very difficult to say what funding and implementation has a direct impact of St. Clement's. For example the £12.5m Scheme in Headington providing segregated bus/cycleway, improving bus services may achieve an air quality improvement for St. Clement's. St. Clement's will benefit from overall strategy, not just a strategy in that area.

A zero emission zone by its definition should include all vehicles, at the moment there have been no guarantees from anybody regarding whether that will be achieved, but we are working towards it, which is what the City Council is also doing working towards it. I think it would be unwise for anyone, even with a zero emission zone to say the air quality in one particular area will improve without knowing the impact of other emissions within that area. Therefore guarantees cannot be given.

139/17 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 8)

15 Questions with notice were asked. Details of the questions and answers and supplementary questions and answers (where asked) are set out in Annex 1 to the Minutes.

In relation to question 1 (Question to Councillor Constance from Councillor Johnston) Councillor Constance gave an assurance that it was her intention to revive the LTP4 working Group once the reports had been received.

In relation to question 3 (Question to Councillor Hibbert-Biles from Councillor Howson) Councillor Hibbert-Biles gave an undertaking to look into the issue of whether a group of schools could pool funds through county arrangements for an apprentice at graduate level.

In relation to question 5 (Question to Councillor Bartholomew from Councillor Howson) Councillor Bartholomew gave an undertaking to look into the ongoing reporting of claims against the Council should members express an interest in receiving it.

140/17 REPORT OF THE CABINET

(Agenda Item 9)

The report of the Cabinet was received.

In relation to paragraph 6 (Adopt Thames Valley) (Question from Councillor Gill Sanders to Councillor Harrod), Councillor Harrod undertook to provide Councillor Sanders with a written answer detailing the financial impact to the Council of being involved and whether all the other authorities involved had taken their share of the cost.

In relation to paragraph 6 (Adopt Thames Valley) (Question from Councillor Howson to Councillor Harrod), Councillor Harrod undertook to provide Councillor Howson with a written answer detailing whether the transitional Budget arrangements delegated to Councillor Harrod were now approved and whether the paperwork had now been signed or whether the County were still in negotiations.

In relation to paragraph 6 (Adopt Thames Valley) (Question from Councillor Mallon to Councillor Harrod), Councillor Harrod gave an assurance that no applications would be refused on the grounds of religion or Ethnicity and that the Council did adhere to the 2011 Guidance.

In relation to paragraph 7 (2016/17 Financial Monitoring & Business Strategy Delivery Report) (Question from Councillor Roberts to Councillor Bartholomew), Councillor Bartholomew undertook to provide Councillor Roberts with a written answer detailing how much money has been paid in redundancy payments thus far and how many of those people who have received redundancy have been redeployed by the Council.

In relation to paragraph 8 (2016/17) (Question from Councillor Mathew to Councillor Bartholomew), Councillor Bartholomew undertook to provide Councillor Mathew with a written answer detailing what funding has been sought from OVO Cycling Tour of Britain and the Countryfile weekend to offset the County funds that have been spent in that area.

141/17 AUDIT & GOVERNANCE ANNUAL REPORT

(Agenda Item 10)

The Council had before them the Audit & Governance Annual Report (CC10) which set out the role of the Audit & Governance Committee and summarised the work that had been undertaken both as a Committee and through the support of the Audit Working Group in 2016/17.

Councillor Carter moved and Councillor Ilott seconded that Council receive the Annual report of the Audit & Governance Committee. In moving the motion, Councillor Carter paid tribute to the Independent Chairman of the Audit Working Group, Dr Geoff Jones for all his work.

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was carried nem con.

RESOLVED: (nem con) to receive the report.

142/17 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING DATES

(Agenda Item 11)

Council had before them a report (CC11) which sought agreement to the schedule of meeting dates proposed for the 2018/19 Council Year. The schedule had been drawn up to reflect the various rules regarding frequency of meetings set out in the Council's Constitution.

Councillor Zoe Patrick proposed and Councillor Gill Sanders seconded that the recommendations set out in the report and on the face of the Agenda be adopted. In moving the motion, Councillor Patrick drew members' attention to the correction set out in the schedule of business.

The motion was the put to the vote and was carried nem con.

RESOLVED: (nem con) to agree the schedule of meeting dates for 2018/19 and in particular to agree to waive Rule 2.1 of the Council Procedure Rules to allow the April 2018 meeting and February 2019 budget meeting of full Council to be held on 27 March 2018 and 12 February 2019 respectively.

143/17 VIREMENTS TO COUNCIL

(Agenda Item 12)

Council had before them a number of Virement requests to offset over and underspends with and between directorates which were larger than £1.0m and therefore, under the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, required Council approval.

RESOLVED: (on a motion by Councillor Bartholomew, seconded by Councillor Hudspeth and carried nem con) to approve the virements greater than £1.0m for Children, Education & Families, Social & Community Services and Environment & Economy as set out in Annex 1.

144/17 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR IAN HUDSPETH

(Agenda Item 13)

With the agreement of Council, Councillor Hudspeth moved and Councillor Brighouse seconded his motion as amended at the suggestion of Councillor Brighouse below in bold italics and strikethrough:

"Oxfordshire County Council congratulates all the newly elected Oxfordshire MPs following the recent General Election. We look forward to working with them all in the future and would like to invite them to ~~address~~ ***attend a question and answer session at*** a Council meeting in the future.

This Council asks the Chairman to write to each MP congratulating them on their successful campaign, inviting them to address a Council meeting."

Councillor Leffman moved and Councillor Johnson seconded the following Motion shown in bold italics and strikethrough:

“Oxfordshire County Council congratulates all the newly elected Oxfordshire MPs following the recent General Election. We look forward to working with them all in the future and would like to invite them to attend a question and answer session at a Council meeting in the future.

This Council asks the Chairman to ~~write to each MP congratulating them on their successful campaign, inviting them to address a Council meeting.~~ ***invite Oxfordshire MPs to a meeting with members to share mutual concerns with relevance to the County.***”

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and was lost by 47 votes to 13, with 1 abstention.

The substantive motion as amended was then put to the vote and was carried by 59 votes to 1.

RESOLVED: (59 votes to 1)

“Oxfordshire County Council congratulates all the newly elected Oxfordshire MPs following the recent General Election. We look forward to working with them all in the future and would like to invite them to attend a question and answer session at a Council meeting in the future.

This Council asks the Chairman to write to each MP congratulating them on their successful campaign, inviting them to address a Council meeting.”

145/17 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR LIZ BRIGHOUSE

(Agenda Item 14)

With the agreement of Council, Councillor Brighouse moved and Councillor Webber seconded an amendment to her motion at the suggestion of Councillor Webber as follows in bold italics and stikethrough:

“This Council, wishing to ensure that governance arrangements for the County are transparent, inclusive and reflect the political situation which exists, asks the Cabinet to work with Political Group Leaders to come forward with a plan to replace the Cabinet with ~~3 Committees to cover each of the Strategic Directorates.~~ ***a committee structure.***”

These Committees would have delegated decision making powers from the Council and would be politically balanced. ~~The Locality Groups would become Committees for each of the District Council Areas (there is already a Locality Group for the City). These Locality Committees would be consulted on policy and budget matters by the Directorate Committees. Robust Scrutiny Structures would be put in place. The Plan to be worked on with a view to the change in the structure being put in place by May 2018.~~”

Councillor Fatemian Moved and Councillor Bulmer seconded the following amendment shown in bold italics and underline

This Council, wishing to ensure that governance arrangements for the County are transparent, inclusive and reflect the political situation which exists, asks the Cabinet to work with Political Group Leaders to come forward with a plan to replace the Cabinet with ~~3 Committees to cover each of the Strategic Directorates.~~ **a committee structure.” or alternitve governance and committee models which could further strengthen the work of the Council.**

These Committees would have delegated decision making powers from the Council and would be politically balanced. ~~The Locality Groups would become Committees for each of the District Council Areas (there is already a Locality Group for the City).~~ These Locality Committees would be consulted on policy and budget matters by the ~~Directorate~~ Committees. Robust Scrutiny Structures would be put in place. The Plan to be worked on with a view to the change in the structure being put in place ~~by May 2018.~~ **as soon as practicable.**

Following debate, the amendmet by Councillor Fatemian was put to the vote and was carried by 31 votes to 29, with 1 abstention:

The substantive motion as amended was put to the vote and was carried by 60 votes to 1.

RESOLVED: (by 60 votes to1)

This Council, wishing to ensure that governance arrangements for the County are transparent, inclusive and reflect the political situation which exists, asks the Cabinet to work with Political Group Leaders to come forward with a plan to replace the Cabinet with a committee structure or alternative governance and committee models which could further strengthen the work of the Council.

These Committees would have delegated decision making powers from the Council and would be politically balanced. Locality Committees would be consulted on policy and budget matters by the Committees. Robust Scrutiny Structures would be put in place. The Plan to be worked on with a view to the change in the structure being put in place as soon as practicable.

146/17 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BARTHOLOMEW

(Agenda Item 15)

Councillor Bartholomew moved and Councillor Roz Smith seconded the following motion:

“At meetings of the County Planning & Regulation Committee (PRC), District or City Councillors have historically been allotted their own speaking slot. However, at District and City planning meetings, County Councillors are treated as members of the public and have to share a speaking slot with anyone else who wants to speak.

.....

In the interest of fairness, this Council instructs the Monitoring Officer and Chairman of the PRC to write to District and City Monitoring Officers and Planning Chairmen advising them that from 1st January 2018 this Council will introduce a policy of reciprocity to ensure parity of treatment. This means that District or City Councils that allow County Councillors their own speaking slot will enjoy the same privilege for their Councillors at County PRC meetings and those that do not, will not get their own speaking slot.

Council delegates to the Monitoring Officer the authority to make the necessary changes to the Constitution to reflect the above arrangements.”

Following debate, the motion was put to the vote and was carried by 39 votes to 1, with 14 abstentions.

RESOLVED: Accordingly.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing