

County Council

12 January 2010

Agenda

Declarations of Interest

This note briefly summarises the position on interests which you must declare at the meeting. Please refer to the Members' Code of Conduct in Section DD of the Constitution for a fuller description.

The duty to declare ...

You must always declare any "personal interest" in a matter under consideration, ie where the matter affects (either positively or negatively):

- (i) any of the financial and other interests which you are required to notify for inclusion in the statutory Register of Members' Interests; or
- (ii) your own well-being or financial position or that of any member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association more than it would affect other people in the County.

Whose interests are included ...

"Member of your family" in (ii) above includes spouses and partners and other relatives' spouses and partners, and extends to the employment and investment interests of relatives and friends and their involvement in other bodies of various descriptions. For a full list of what "relative" covers, please see the Code of Conduct.

When and what to declare ...

The best time to make any declaration is under the agenda item "Declarations of Interest". Under the Code you must declare not later than at the start of the item concerned or (if different) as soon as the interest "becomes apparent".

In making a declaration you must state the nature of the interest.

Taking part if you have an interest ...

Having made a declaration you may still take part in the debate and vote on the matter unless your personal interest is also a "prejudicial" interest.

"Prejudicial" interests ...

A prejudicial interest is one which a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would think so significant as to be likely to affect your judgment of the public interest.

What to do if your interest is prejudicial ...

If you have a prejudicial interest in any matter under consideration, you may remain in the room but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter under consideration, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

Exceptions ...

There are a few circumstances where you may regard yourself as not having a prejudicial interest or may participate even though you may have one. These, together with other rules about participation in the case of a prejudicial interest, are set out in paragraphs 10 – 12 of the Code.

Seeking Advice ...

It is your responsibility to decide whether any of these provisions apply to you in particular circumstances, but you may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.

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, 12 January 2010 at 10.00 am

County Hall, Oxford



Joanna Simons
Chief Executive

December 2009

Contact Officer: **Marion Holyman**
Tel: (01865) 810177; E-Mail: marion.holyman@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 - 38)

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2009 (CC1) and to receive for information any matters 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

(a) Membership of the Standards Committee

The Standards Committee considered at its meeting on 10 December 2009 a report on membership of the Committee. The Committee was advised that Regulation 4 of the Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008 states 'an Authority must ensure that ... where it is operating executive arrangements ..., only one Member of its Standards Committee is a Member of the Executive'. There has been recent debate as to whether or not this provision requires the appointment of a Cabinet Member or whether this is a matter of discretion for the Council. The Committee was also advised that the Leader of the Council had added 'governance' to the Deputy Leader's Portfolio of responsibilities.

The Standards Committee RECOMMENDS Council to increase the Councillor membership of the Standards Committee to 7 Members and to agree the appointment of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Governance to the Committee.

(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. Members' Allowances (Pages 39 - 44)

Report of the Monitoring Officer (CC8)

Council is RECOMMENDED that:

(a) ***An allowance of £2,000 per annum should be payable to the councillor serving as the Oxfordshire Corporate Director on South East Fire and Rescue Control Centre Ltd during 2009/10. This allowance should be backdated to 1 April 2009, but not linked to the existing index. This special responsibility allowance to be reviewed for 2011/12.***

- (b) ***The indexation currently applied to the basic allowance and special responsibility allowances for councillors be lifted to allow the freezing of these allowances for 2010/11. This arrangement to be reviewed for 2011/12.***
- (c) ***A full review of allowances to be undertaken in 2010. The Council to be invited to express its views to the Panel as to what specifically it wishes to be considered in that review.***

9. Financial Procedural Rules (Pages 45 - 48)

Report of the Monitoring Officer and Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer (CC9)

Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the amendments to the Financial Procedure Rules, as set out in paragraphs 3 – 10 of the report.

10. Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Plan 2010-13 (Pages 49 - 88)

At its meeting on 15 December 2009, Cabinet considered a report, together with the full draft Plan, which outlined the outcome of the formal consultation and the priorities, aims and objectives of the plan. Copy of the Plan is attached as an Annex (CC10).

Cabinet endorsed the plan and recommended its approval by Council, alongside all other partners in advance of the final approval by the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Trust at its meeting in January.

Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the Children and Young People's Plan, subject to any final editorial adjustments by the Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Trust Board in consultation with the Director for Children, Young People & Families.

11. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 89 - 92)

Report of the Cabinet meetings on 24 November and 15 December 2009 (CC11)

12. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

13. Themed Debate - Educational Attainment (Pages 93 - 104)

Report by Councillor Liz Brighouse, Leader of the Labour Group (CC13)

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the paper and to suggest ways in which greater involvement by all stakeholders can be encouraged and supported.

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 MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2010

MOTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

14. Motion from Councillor Richard Stevens

"This Council recognises the vital importance of respite care for children with disabilities and their carers. Council also acknowledges that caring for children with disabilities can entail significant financial investment by the families involved, and notes the concerns raised in the Oxford Mail on 11 December 2009 that Oxfordshire residents fear the loss or reduction of respite care funding. Council recognises that high quality respite care services for children with disabilities are the hallmark of a civilised society and therefore asks the Cabinet to pledge its support for respite care for children with disabilities by:

- (a) ensuring that funding for such services will not be reduced; and
- (b) ensuring that respite care for children with disabilities will not be the subject of "streamlining" or efficiency measures the results of which are not reinvested back directly into such services; and
- (c) providing reassurance to the carers of children with disabilities who rely on such respite care services that current service levels will be maintained or increased."

15. Motion from Councillor Zoé Patrick

"This Council notes:

- (a) the national concessionary bus pass scheme was intended to help elderly people and those with disabilities lead a more active life;
- (b) the scheme does not currently help those elderly people and those with disabilities who find it hard to access commercial bus services and who rely on community transport schemes;
- (c) the new national bus passes, unlike many of the old "local schemes" cannot be used to fund trips with community transport providers;
- (d) the e-petition on the 10 Downing Street website for which this motion seeks support: <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/commtransport/>.

This Council asks the Cabinet:

- (a) to write to the Department of Transport to ask that legislation is changed to allow use of national concessionary bus passes with regulated community transport providers;
- (b) to encourage councillors and members of the public to support the e-petition on

the issue of community transport.”

16. Motion from Councillor Val Smith

“This Council values our youth services and takes seriously the representations we have received from many young people and others; we share their opposition to proposals to cut and reduce youth services in the County.

Council asks the Cabinet to consider carefully how it will provide and support sufficient positive activities for young people in Oxfordshire, taking close account of both local needs and its legal obligation to provide sufficient positive activities for young people.

We welcome the increases we have seen from the government both in resources for play facilities and in ring-fenced money to protect vulnerable young people and those at risk of dropping out or getting involved in crime. We appreciate the breadth of the services provided by the County's dedicated youth workers - and thank all for whom this is a calling as well as a job.

We recognise the provision the service makes for many ages, many needs and all social classes - and value the provision in all parts of our County.

We underline our commitment to young people in the County and to protecting our youth services. We oppose any cuts in youth provision and youth workers and call on the Cabinet instead to bring forward proposals to extend the youth service - an investment in everybody's future.”

17. Motion from Councillor John Tanner

“This Council believes that the County Council's parking policies are unfair to the residents of Oxford.

The Council is concerned that we made an excessive profit of £559,000 from Pay & Display and Residents Parking in Oxford last year.

The Council calls on the Cabinet:

- (a) to scrap parking charges for Oxford residents who wish to park in their own street;
- (b) to fund residents' parking schemes from Pay & Display or Park & Ride charges;
- (c) not to encourage drivers to park on pavements;
- (d) to act against drivers who park their cars illegally on double yellow lines;
- (e) to request the police to act against drivers who obstruct the pavement or park dangerously at street corners.”

18. Motion from Councillor Richard Stevens

"This Council notes ULT's withdrawal from the proposals to make Oxford School an academy and calls on Cabinet to find a way forward for the school which commands confidence amongst parents, pupils and the wider community. Noting that continued uncertainty about the school's status has the potential to disrupt continued good progress at Oxford School, Council further asks the Cabinet to consult widely and urgently on options that meet the need of present and future students of Oxford School, including a Co-operative Trust solution."

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 11 January 2010 at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders