

County Council

10 July 2018

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 **07776 997946** or glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.

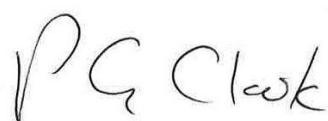
If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, but please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

To: Members of the County Council

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

Tuesday, 10 July 2018 at 10.00 am

Council Chamber - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND



P.G. Clark
Chief Executive

June 2018

Committee Officer: **Deborah Miller**
Tel: 07920 084239; 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 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2018 (**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. Appointment of a Joint Chief Executive for Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council (Pages 7 - 16)

Cabinet agreed on 4 June 2018 to work in partnership with Cherwell District Council and to adopt joint working arrangements with Cherwell on the basis of a formal 'Section 113 Agreement' under the Local Government Act 1972. This included an agreement that there should be a joint chief executive for both authorities with the intention that this person should also be appointed as the statutory Head of Paid Service for Oxfordshire County Council.

This report sets out the recommendations of the Council's Remuneration Committee on the appointment of a Joint Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service for Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council. The report also recommends that if this appointment is agreed, there is then a need to agree the ending, on the grounds of redundancy, of the role of the County Council's current Chief Executive, as this post would no longer be required.

The Council's Constitution incorporates statutory rules which the authority must follow when determining the appointment of a senior manager such as the Chief Executive or 'Head of Paid Service'.

At this meeting, Full Council is receiving the recommendation of the Remuneration Committee as to an appointment of Joint Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service. Once an initial determination to appoint has been made, the Proper Officer will consult Cabinet members. Full Council will also be asked to make an initial decision on the ending of the current Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service role on the

grounds of redundancy. Cabinet members will be consulted on this also.

At a second meeting, scheduled for later today, Full Council will consider any comments from Cabinet and will determine whether to confirm any such appointment. If so, it will also consider the matter of any redundancy.

Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) agree that Yvonne Rees should be appointed to the post of Joint Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service of Oxfordshire County Council with effect from the 1 October 2018; and in consequence***
- (b) agree to the ending of the current Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service role on the grounds of redundancy; and***
- (c) in consequence of 1 and 2., to ask the Proper Officer, under Part 8.4(4) and (10) of the Constitution, to notify members of Cabinet of these intentions in order to seek their views on the proposed appointment and redundancy.***

10. Annual Report of the Transition Fund for Children's Services (Pages 17 - 40)

The Oxfordshire Together Transition Fund for open-access children's services has been running for one year. This is the first Annual Report on outcomes from grants made to community organisations from the Fund.

The report sets out the background to the County Council's move to a community-led approach to open-access children's services and how the Transition Fund grants have been awarded. It then goes on to set out the types of services being delivered, how they link to other services and the feedback from residents on the quality of provision.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report.

11. 2018/19 Requests for Supplementary Estimate

The Director for Finance reports as follows:

As set out in the Provisional Revenue and Capital Outturn Report to Cabinet on 19 June 2018, all over and underspends have been transferred to general balances. This includes an underspend of £123,909 on the Transition Fund for open access children's services.

Applications to the fund were considered by a cross-party panel of Councillors in seven rounds during in 2017/18. A total of £876,091 was allocated to be used over the agreed three year period. This leaves a balance of £123,909 as the fund has now closed to new applications.

It is proposed that Council approve the use of the £123,909 underspend and that it is transferred to the Budget Priorities Reserve until it is required.

Council is RECOMMENDED to approve the use of the £123,909 underspend on the Transition fund for open access children's services which will be transferred to the Budget Priorities Reserve until required.

12. Corporate Plan (Pages 41 - 66)

The Corporate Plan (**CC12**) sets out the County Council's overarching strategy for the period 2018-2021. It states our updated vision for 'thriving communities' in Oxfordshire and describes the council's main priorities and the specific actions that will be taken in the period to March 2019.

This document builds on a short, public-facing document (the 'prospectus') which was published in October 2017 and summarised the council's vision and priorities. The Corporate Plan 2018- 2021 expands on the messages in the prospectus, drawing together our vision, values and the key areas of focus for the coming year.

The intended audience for the Plan is Councillors, staff, partners, inspectors and residents with a specific interest.

Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the report.

13. Annual Report of the Scrutiny Committees (Pages 67 - 88)

Each year the Scrutiny Annual Report (attached at Annex 1) provides a summary of the work and impact of the council's three scrutiny committees; Performance Scrutiny, Education Scrutiny and Health Overview & Scrutiny, and any Cabinet Advisory Groups appointed by Cabinet during the year.

The report (**CC13**) is structured by committee and highlights where the committees' influence has been greatest. It emphasises the areas where scrutiny has had a tangible impact on decision-making and held decision-makers to account.

In the face of budget pressures across the local authority and the NHS locally, the role of scrutiny has become increasingly important for ensuring the needs of Oxfordshire residents are at the forefront of decisions about local services.

To ensure that scrutiny continues to robustly challenge and influence the decisions of the council and Health partners, officers and members identified a range of practical steps to improve the effectiveness of the council's existing scrutiny arrangements. This has focused on enabling more flexible, councillor-led scrutiny that centres on priority areas for Oxfordshire and balances this against areas of emerging concern.

Both the Audit and Governance Committee and Performance Scrutiny Committee have reviewed this report and its layout and content have been amended to reflect their comments.

The Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the report.

14. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 89 - 94)

Report of the Cabinet Meetings held on 20 March 2018, 17 April 2018, 22 May 2018, 4 June 2018 and 19 June 2018 (**CC14**).

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 by Councillor Liz Brighthouse

“This Council believes that children with SEND should not have their transport to and from schools and associated activities cut. This Transport enhances their lives and enables their parents to work and contribute to the economy.

The Council asks the Director for Children’s Services to consider, with the affected Schools’ Heads and other interested parties, this issue in order to come up with other options to curtail these costs rather than withdrawing provision from these vulnerable children and their families. Such options to include working with schools to maximise the use of the maintenance grants and looking at alternative procurement practices including better use of the integrated transport service.

The results of this work to be considered by the Education Scrutiny Committee as part of their policy development role before being determination at Cabinet. Any shortfall in the budget to be funded from reserves until such time as all the options have been considered.

The recent changes to the home to school transport policy be deferred until these alternative options have been diligently pursued and evaluated.”

16. Motion by Councillor Suzanne Bartington

“This Council welcomes the proposals by the Government to ban plastic straw, plastic stirrers and plastic cotton bud; this along with the commitment on single use coffee cups and single use plastics shows the government’s commitment to reduce the use of plastics.

This Council asks that Cabinet comes forward with a realistic timetable to stop using plastic straw, plastic stirrers, plastic cotton bud, non-recyclable cups and single use plastics by the Autumn.

This Council asks that the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Environment congratulating him on his progressive proposals.”

17. Motion by Councillor Richard Webber

“The impact of Brexit (hard or soft) will affect all Oxfordshire residents.

Council believes that with Brexit fast approaching, it is both sensible and realistic that the potential risks and impact of Brexit on Oxfordshire good and bad, short term and long term, are fully understood as far as is possible and aired in public together with detailed discussion on how these impacts can be mitigated for.

To achieve this, Council undertakes to organize and co-ordinate a public conference/symposium in autumn 2018 in which Oxfordshire experts and leaders in business, science, engineering, education, social services and other areas are invited to participate, together with elected representatives at all levels. As the largest organisation in the County representing most of the interests most likely to be affected, OCC is uniquely placed to lead this initiative by immediately setting up an organizing committee of senior Officers and Councillors of all parties. The findings and conclusions of the symposium would be presented as a report to full Council and other authorities.”

18. Motion by Councillor Mike Fox-Davies

“The Thames Water Draft Resources Management Plan (dWRMP19), consultation was opened on the 8th February and closed on the 29th April. The plan proposes a new reservoir near Abingdon to serve the forecast needs of not only the Thames Water area, but also the wider South East.

The consultation response from OCC looks for clarification on: -

- the population forecast figures;
- how much water will be sold to other water companies
- how Thames Water will speed up their programme of leakage reduction

This Council supports the position of GARD in response to the plan which asks Thames Water to: -

- Reduce leakage by half by 2050
- Improve water-use efficiency to match the norms of other companies
- Provide a proper analysis of water available through other measures, including Teddington DRA; Severn Trent water transfer and water re-use.

Which together should together solve the water shortage issue and provide a 1 in 200 severity drought resilience.

And calls on the Leader of the Council to write to Thames Water, Defra, the Environment Agency and Ofwat, requesting that a second consultation be undertaken due to incomplete information or errors on the information used to base their recommendations.”

19. Motion by Councillor Susanna Pressel

“DEFRA is considering whether to grant a licence to expand the badger cull to areas of lower risk, including Oxfordshire.

There has been 5 years of culling in high risk areas at a cost to the UK tax payer of £50m so far. Not only has there been no significant reduction in bovine TB, there has actually been an increase.

So far culling has had the effect of causing badgers to move to other areas. Any that do have TB may be spreading it further. This is entirely predictable and impossible to prevent.

This Council resolves to ask the Leader to write to DEFRA saying that we are opposed to the licensing of a badger cull in Oxfordshire.”

20. Motion by Councillor Mark Cherry

“This Council notes the pervasive damage caused by plastic to the environment, particularly to the wildlife in our countryside, oceans and rivers. Much of this damage is created by single-use plastics.

This Council is committed to tackling this problem in Oxfordshire, and calls on the Cabinet Member for the Environment to conduct a review of the usage of single-use plastics in all County Council-owned premises, with a view to eliminating any unnecessary single-use plastics from Council sites and operations”

21. Motion by Councillor Laura Price

"The greatest strength of local government is its ability to embrace openness and transparency, working with and for the people we represent to strive for the very best services and the most effective use of public money.

To ensure that Council is committed to this fundamental principle we propose the Monitoring Officer conduct a review of:

1. Any meetings including Members relating to Council functions and informing decision-making which are held in private
2. Timings of meetings

The review will be reported back to Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee to form an action plan ensuring the maximum amount of business is held in public and that meetings are scheduled at times which enable the widest possible access to elected Councillors."

22. Motion by John Howson

“County Council expresses its concern at the Government’s announcement of an extra £50 million to allow existing Grammar Schools to extend their premises and take on more pupils while Oxfordshire Schools remain significantly underfunded compared to the national average.

Accordingly, the County Council instructs the Leader of the Council writes to all the six Oxfordshire MPs asking them to oppose this proposal in favour of providing more funding to Oxfordshire School's, especially our small rural primary schools and to report back on their responses."

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 9 July 2018 at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders