

County Council

2 April 2019

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, 2 April 2019 at 10.30 am

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



Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

March 2019

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 8 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 12 February 2019 (**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. **Report of the Cabinet (Pages 7 - 10)**

Report of the Cabinet Meetings held on 18 December 2018, 22 January 2019 and 27 February 2019 (CC9).

10. **Independent Remuneration Panel on Members' Allowances (Pages 11 - 22)**

The Independent Remuneration Panel was asked to consider whether changes should be made to certain aspects of the Scheme of Members' Allowances and if so what those changes should be.

This report sets out the areas the Panel was asked to consider together with the Panel's recommendations on them. An annex to the report includes the Panel's full report including the recommendations and their rationale for them. Council is asked to endorse the recommendations.

Council is RECOMMENDED to endorse the following recommendations from the Independent Remuneration Panel for amendments to the Scheme of Allowances and the future operation of the Panel:

- (1) a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA) should be paid to the Chairman of Horton Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that the allowance should be 75% of the SRA for the Chairman of a (permanent) scrutiny committee;***

- (2) ***an SRA should be paid to an Oxfordshire County Council representative who is Chairman of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel equivalent to the allowance for the Chairman of a (permanent) scrutiny committee;***
- (3) ***the uplift for allowances for 2019/20 should be at the same rate as the annually agreed pay award for staff; and***
- (4) ***the Panel should conduct its next review in the autumn of 2019 and it should meet annually after that or whenever structural changes are made;***
- (5) ***the next recruitment process should create a pool of seven panel members.***

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

11. Motion by Councillor Tim Bearder

“Most people accept that building more roads creates more traffic. What is certain is that building an Expressway to connect a million new homes, in what will become the country’s first linear conurbation, will definitely bring more traffic. What it will not do is relieve the congestion on the A34. It is obvious that any temporary, short-term relief that might occur on the A34 is being used as a “stalking horse” to railroad through a much bigger project designed to create the UK’s own Silicon Valley in an arc outside the M25 and between our two prominent University cities. This radical experiment, together with all the building that will be needed to pay for it will impact on the local environment, existing infrastructure and the climate, and is deeply concerning for Oxfordshire residents.

Council instructs that the Leader and Cabinet Member for Environment to jointly write to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government – demanding that a full consultation is carried out asking local residents if they want an Expressway and associated construction before any route is considered.

The Leader and Cabinet Member should also ask the Minister whether the million extra houses outlined in the National Infrastructure Commission's vision for housing along the route of the arc are, in addition to, or included in, the 100,000 houses planned for by the Oxfordshire authorities outlined in the growth deal.”

12. Motion by Councillor John Sanders

“This Council opposes the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway project on the grounds that it will not benefit the people of Oxfordshire causing damage to the countryside and unnecessary cost without reducing the impact of traffic in the area and therefore the Council asks the Leader of the Council to Lobby Government to cancel this unnecessary project.”

13. Motion by Councillor Dr Simon Clarke

“This Council is proud to have been part of the East-West rail partnership that will deliver phase 2 of the programme by 2023, linking Oxford to Milton Keynes. This will remove a large number of freight vehicles from the A34, but the road will still be at capacity in places, with substandard lay-by facilities and poor layout of some junctions.

This Council recognises that more work needs to be done to improve capacity and safety on the A34 to avoid the gridlock that frequently happens, causing problems for businesses, commuters, towns and villages along the route as drivers try to find alternate routes.

This Council calls upon the Cabinet Member for Environment to work with Central Government and its agencies to improve the A34.”

14. Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves

“This Council welcomes the £150 million improvement works to be delivered by March 2023 as part of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, which will accelerate the delivery of 6,500 new homes across the county and have a positive impact in providing much-needed infrastructure to support these new homes and ensure that they and their communities are sustainable places in which to live and work.

This Council welcomes the excellent work of Cherwell District Council in delivering new homes at a record rate and further welcomes the Oxfordshire Growth Board’s planned improvement works for Tramway and Hennef Way, which will serve to improve traffic circulation in and around Banbury’s bus and train stations, access to and from the M40 to the North of the town centre and support the creation of new homes.

This Council notes the historic problems associated with traffic circulation to the South of Banbury town centre which would be ameliorated by the creation of a J10A to alleviate the flow of traffic from and to the M40 to the South of Banbury town centre and which could assist the creation of further sustainable growth across the broader ‘Banburyshire’ area, if delivered.

This Council calls on the Cabinet Member for Environment to lobby the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Highways England and the Department for Transport with a view to ascertaining what further funding and progress can be made to deliver a J10A and the sustainable growth to which such a project could lead.”

15. Motion by Councillor Mark Cherry

“Cherwell District Council and Oxford City Council are phasing in electric vehicles in their Council fleet of vehicles. Council calls upon the Cabinet Member for Environment including Transport to commission a costed study for the introduction of electric vehicles and the phasing out of diesel vehicles over the next five years.”

16. Motion by Councillor Suzanne Bartington

“Recycling delivers multiple environmental and health benefits, including conservation of natural capital, reduction in energy consumption and mitigation of pollutant emissions. The critical role of recycling for sustainable development, is reflected in ambitious targets within the Government 25-Year Environment Plan and Resources and Waste Strategy (Defra, 2018).

In 2017/18, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) was named the best performing county council disposal authority in England for household waste recycling, with an overall rate of over 57%. This success reflects OCC's commitment to partnership working with the City and District Councils to continuously improve waste services and protect our natural environment.

However, performance could be further improved, through coordinated action to identify areas for improvement, disseminate best practice and strive for optimal performance. These efforts would aim to improve overall rates and reduce geographical variation across Oxfordshire:

- SODC 63%
- Vale of White Horse 60.4%
- WODC 59.6%
- Cherwell 55.6%
- Oxford City 50.8%

This Council calls on the Cabinet Member for Environment to instigate a programme to achieve this goal through four key objectives:

- (a) Implement closer partnership working between constituent authorities, sharing best practice and working collaboratively to identify barriers and facilitators for improvement.
- (b) Consider the benefits and any disadvantages of standardisation of collection, waste containers, and quality monitoring.
- (c) Explore measures to minimise the environmental impacts of domestic waste.
- (d) Encourage public engagement initiatives such as clearer labelling to raise awareness and promote behavioural change among residents.”

17. Councillor Damian Haywood

"The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in their October report stated that if the planet wants to avert dangerous climate breakdown, we need to cut emissions in half by 2030, and hit zero by the middle of the century.

Oxfordshire is already doing its bit: we are committed to reducing emissions from our own estate and activities by 3% a year. Unfortunately, our current plans are not enough. The IPCC's report suggests that the world has just a dozen years left to restrict global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Should they increase by 2°C, humanity's capacity to prevent catastrophic food shortages, floods, droughts, extreme heat and poverty will be severely impaired. Limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible, but only with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities. Furthermore, bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities.

Oxfordshire County Council calls on the Leader to:

1. Declare a 'Climate Emergency';
2. Pledge to make Oxfordshire County Council carbon neutral by 2030, taking into account both production and consumption emissions;
3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target possible;
4. Continue to work with partners across the county and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies;
5. Report to Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency."

18. Motion by Councillor Bob Johnston

"Climate change is increasingly recognised as the most pressing global challenge humanity faces. Young people, who will face the consequences of inaction, are more concerned than others.

More and more Councils are taking on board the latest report from the UN on the likely impact of Climate Change. The stark conclusion of that report was that the planet has just 11 years to cut carbon emissions in half in order to avert environmental catastrophe. This can only be achieved by setting targets more ambitious and challenging than any set before, and that the argument that "there is nothing we can do about it" must be challenged.

This motion calls on Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to declare a "Climate Emergency" as has been declared by Oxford City Council and VWHDC including:

1. The appointment of a Climate Emergency Officer, whose first task would be to devise and co-ordinate a plan for how OCC can make a difference, and whose post would be paid for by savings made within the plan.
2. The setting of new ambitious targets of zero carbon output by 2030 from all activities over which OCC has some control.

Council should advertise its ambitions with a large public, regularly updated barometer showing the Council's progress towards its targets."

19. Motion by Councillor John Howson

“This Council regrets the delay in the signing of the funding agreement for the Swan School by the Government. The need for a new secondary school in Oxford first appeared in the County's 2014 Pupil Place Plan, allowing plenty of time for the school to be approved and built.

This Council further regrets the steps it has had to take to manage the admission process for secondary school admissions in 2019 and for the uncertainty to parents and students about the outcome of the process.

This Council further instructs the Leader of the Council to ask the Government to return to the County Council responsibility for the building of all future state funded schools in Oxfordshire regardless of their designation or description.”

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 1 April 2019 at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders