

County Council

5 November 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, 5 November 2019 at 10.30 am

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



Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

October 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 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 - 36)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 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 37 - 42)

Report of the Cabinet Meetings held on 17 September 2019 and 15 October 2019 (CC9).

10. Committee Dates

At the Annual Council Meeting in May this year it was suggested in error and agreed that the Annual Meeting in 2020 be held on 12 May 2020. Under the rules of the Constitution it should be held on the third Tuesday in May and it is therefore suggested that it be held on 19 May. If you agree this change Cabinet would then meet on 26 May.

It is RECOMMENDED that Council agree the above change to the Annual Council Meeting to 19 May 2020.

11. The Leader's Update on the Motion on Climate Action (Pages 43 - 48)

At its Meeting on 2 April 2019, Council approved a motion in the following terms:

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. Acknowledge a 'Climate Emergency' and call for action*
- 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."*

The report updates Council on the work undertaken since the adoption of the Motion (CC11).

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the update from the Leader on the action taken in pursuant to the Motion in April 2019 on Climate action and to note process for taking the further recommendations forward.

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

12. Motion by Councillor Richard Webber

"Whilst the process of Transformation will almost certainly lead to improvements and efficiencies in the way the Council operates, the primary driver for undertaking the Transformation Program was the need to save £15m in order to balance the budget.

To date, a number of costs have already been incurred (mostly additional staffing costs to make sure that Transformation happens). Given that there are areas of the Council where Officer shortages are already affecting our ability to deliver services as efficiently and speedily as we would wish, it is important that these areas are protected from any further staff reductions.

Some savings have already been claimed. But the communication of this information to Members has been disjointed and confusing. As a result, Members have no

means of measuring or judging what success the Program may be having. Given the overriding importance of Transformation in delivering the necessary financial benefits, it is vital that all Members are able to judge its success effectively and in a timely manner.

The practice (to date) of burying the costs and the savings in many different lines of the budget makes it impossible to monitor and scrutinize the process with rigour.

Therefore, this Council requests Council Finance Officers to include in the forthcoming budget papers a separate report on Transformation to include identifying and quantifying for all years of the Program 2018/19-2022/2023 the following:

1. The costs actually incurred and predicted (including staffing redundancy and pension costs);
2. The savings actually achieved and predicted.”

13. Motion by Councillor John Sanders

“Given the inadequate response from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government to the concern of this Council regarding the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, this Council asks the Leader to write to the Minister of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Highways England in the following terms:

Oxfordshire County Council will work with Highways England on the development of the vision for the English Economic Heartland and the Oxford to Cambridge Arc on the understanding that they will expedite the realisation of the East West Rail Link.

The development of the railway line will ensure the delivery of the growth and housing required, without the environmental impact of a road cutting across the centre of rural England.

Building the Expressway flies in the face of Oxfordshire’s commitment to reduce the use of the car. An action which is necessary to tackle the Climate Change Emergency, which Local Government, including Oxfordshire, has signed up to.

Oxfordshire does not support the building of the Expressway irrespective of which route is chosen.”

14. Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves

“This Council deplores the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group’s (‘CCG’) decision on 26 September to establish a midwife led unit for the foreseeable future at the Horton General Hospital.

The decision follows public consultation and evidence-gathering exercises in which neither the public, nor this Council, have confidence. Public trust in the CCG and in Oxfordshire University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (‘OUHFT’) was damaged when the temporary downgrade was enforced, without consultation, in August 2016 and has since been further eroded by the persistent lack of meaningful engagement, which speaks to their Oxford-centric agenda.

Council endorses the recent conclusions of the Horton Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee ('Horton HOSC') in bringing OUHFT and CCG shortcomings to the fore and resolves to fully support Horton HOSC's efforts to continue to hold the CCG and OUHFT to account and pursue an appropriate course of action.

This Council recognises the vital importance of the Horton General Hospital in providing first-class care to patients across Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire and welcomes the commitment from OUHFT and the CCG to invest significantly in the Horton site.

After years of talk and hollow promises, now is the time for action and that commitment needs to be tangibly demonstrated. Council also notes the pledge of OUHFT and the CCG to "regularly review" the viability of reinstating an obstetric-led maternity unit in Banbury. The real-life birthing experiences of local mothers cannot continue to be overlooked and Council will do all it can to ensure their voices are heard."

15. Motion by Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles

"This Council has recognised and accepted the serious issues facing Chipping Norton given inclusion in LTP's as far back as 2004. The biggest issue in Chipping Norton is the amount of HGV's accessing the High Street in the town.

It is now accepted by Public Health England, that Air pollution damages health and can be responsible for deaths. Chipping Norton has been an AQMA since 2006. Air Quality continues to be over EU acceptable limits and one of the highest in Oxfordshire. There is also a safety issue where two A roads merge into a narrow road unable to take an HGV and a car travelling in the other direction and narrow pavements. There have been 2 deaths and a serious accident in recent years.

HGV's affect listed buildings and residents. There has been little or no action by OCC.

The majority of land at Tank Farm is OCC owned. Given this, there will be a large receipt from development which could be used towards a weight limit and lorry route.

This Council requests the Cabinet to face up to the health and safety issues of residents of Chipping Norton and act on the previous LTP2 and LTP3 recommendations for a weight limit or indeed a lorry route."

16. Motion by Councillor Neville Harris

"Council are delighted to note that the Oxfordshire Charity "Children Heard and Seen" were amongst the 2019 recipients of The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

The Council further note that:

The Charity's work minimises the effects of parental imprisonment on young people through mentoring, group working and other interventions. Just listening to the thoughts of these young people promises benefit; realising they are not alone in facing problems is often pivotal.

Annually c312,000 children lose a parent to custody in England and Wales, c17,000 following the imprisonment of mothers. The Ministry of Justice advise that 65% of boys with a convicted parent go on to offend themselves.

The Charity's services are mainly reactive, identifying and encouraging children to take part is difficult and time consuming. Developing and fulfilling individual potential, seeking to reduce intergenerational crime and cut parent re-offending, this work impacts positively in Oxfordshire. Over 160 young people are on projects at present, c500 have participated since the Charity's formation in 2014. Commercial sector and grant foundation, purpose specific, funding and c40 volunteers make this endeavour possible.

Council agrees that it recognises, "Children Heard and Seen", as vital community initiative originating in Oxfordshire. It further agrees to invite the Charity to prepare a brief written report on its work, needs and aspirations and present this report to a meeting of the Council's Performance Review Scrutiny Committee and/or to such other Committee the Council may decide appropriate."

17. Motion by Councillor Jane Hanna

"This Council notes that adult social care is one of the major issues facing Oxfordshire. The announcement in the Queen's speech on 14th October that the government will bring forward proposals to reform adult social care in England repeats a similar pledge made in 2017 and contains no concrete proposals. Extra funding promised for social care for 2020 does not provide the action and certainty needed for the elderly who depend on social care as a lifeline or for the disabled who represent a third of all social care users.

Different people have different needs and to treat people with dignity and respect, a personal care package may include help with dressing, bathing, assistance with meals, assistance with taking medication, and help with wellbeing. It should be available and be free.

Action is overdue for as long as there is no implementation of a concrete national plan for adult social care in England. This Council requests the leader of Oxfordshire County Council to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care asking for the government to introduce free personal care for adults and young adults over 16."

18. Motion by Councillor Yvonne Constance

“This Council is aware of the need for urgent action to reduce carbon emissions. The government is now committed to the ambitious target of carbon neutrality by 2050.

Given the scale of the challenge ahead in retrofitting existing buildings to deliver this target, it is imperative new developments are built now to the highest possible energy efficiency standards.

Oxfordshire is committed to deliver 100,000 houses by 2031. These homes must be low-carbon, energy and water efficient and climate resilient. The Committee on Climate Change recognises the cost of building to a standard that achieves these aims is not prohibitive. Getting the design right from the outset is vastly cheaper than ‘locking in’ carbon and forcing retrofit at a later date.

We strongly welcome the governments consultation on the Future Homes Standard, which seeks to deliver homes with significantly lower carbon emissions. We note the Standard is planned for introduction from 2025, with an interim uplift to Building Regulations in 2020.

Council asks the Leader and Cabinet Member for the Environment to write to the Secretary of State requesting that the government ensure that the full ambition of these proposals is delivered and that the Future Homes Standard is set as a ‘minimum’ rather than ‘ceiling’ standard leaving open the opportunity for higher standards to come forward. We also urge government to bring forward the introduction of this standard before 2025, by which time large numbers of Oxfordshire’s new homes will already have been built.”

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 4 November 2019 at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders