

County Council

11 February 2020

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, 11 February 2020 at 10.30 am

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



Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

January 2020

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 the meeting 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 for Members of the Council.

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 44)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 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. **Pay Policy Statement - Report of the Remuneration Committee** (Pages 45 - 76)

Report by the Director for Human Resources (**CC7**)

The Remuneration Committee is required to report annually to Council on the Pay Policy Statement. The Remuneration Committee considered this report on 30 January 2020 and now submit it for approval to Council on 11 February 2020.

The Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) receive the report of the Remuneration Committee;***
- (b) approve the revised Pay Policy Statement at Annex 1 to this report;***
- (c) approve the Gender Pay Gap Data Summary at Annex 2 to this report.***

8. **Corporate Plan and Service & Resource Planning 2020/21 - 2023/24** (Pages 77 - 274)

Report by Director of Finance (**CC8**).

This report is the culmination of the Service & Resource Planning process for 2020/21 to 2023/24. It sets out the Cabinet's proposed budget for 2020/21, medium term financial plan to 2023/24 and capital programme to 2029/30, together with a number of strategies and policies that the Council is required to approve for the 2020/21 financial year.

The report is divided into four main sections which are outlined below:

Section 1 – Leader of the Council's overview (**To follow**)

Section 2 – Corporate Plan

Section 3 – Statutory Report by Director of Finance (Chief Finance Officer)

Section 4 – Budget Strategy and Capital Programme

The Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- (a) approve the Corporate Plan 2020-2024 as set out in Section 2 and delegate authority to the Corporate Director Customers and Organisational Development in consultation with the Leader and relevant portfolio holder(s) to make appropriate changes to the priorities framework.**
- (b) have regard to the statutory report of the Director of Finance (at Section 3) in approving recommendations c to e below;**
- (c) (in respect of the budget and medium term financial plan) approve:**
 - (1) the council tax and precept calculations for 2020/21 set out in Section 4.3 and in particular:**
 - (i) a precept of £391,445,480;**
 - (ii) a council tax for band D equivalent properties of £1,527.44;**
 - (2) a budget for 2020/21 as set out in Section 4.4;**
 - (3) a medium term plan for 2020/21 to 2023/24 as set out in Section 4.1 (which incorporates changes to the existing medium term financial plan as set out in Section 4.2);**
 - (4) virement arrangements to operate within the approved budget for 2020/21 as set out in Section 4.5;**
 - (5) the Financial Strategy for 2020/21 at Section 4.6;**
 - (6) the Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy Statement 2019/20 at Section 4.7 including**
 - (i) the Chief Finance Officer's recommended level of General Balances for 2020/21 (Section 4.7), and**
 - (ii) the planned level of Earmarked Reserves for 2019/20 to 2023/24 (Section 4.7.1)**
 - (7) the use of Dedicated Schools Grant (provisional allocation) for 2020/21 as set out in Section 4.8.**
- (d) (in respect of capital) approve:**
 - (1) the Capital & Investment Strategy for 2020/21 – 2029/30 including the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Methodology Statement as set out in Section 4.9;**
 - (2) a Capital Programme for 2019/20 to 2029/30 as set out in Section 4.9.1 which includes new capital proposals set out in Section 4.9.2 and the Highways Maintenance Programme to 2024/25 set out in Section 4.9.3; and**
 - (3) the Investment Strategy for 2020/21 set out in Section 4.9.4.**
- (e) (in respect of treasury management) approve:**
 - (1) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2020/21 at Section 4.9.5 including the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators and the Specified Investment and Non-Specified Investment Instruments.**
 - (2) the continued delegation of authority to withdraw or advance additional funds to/from external fund managers to the Treasury Management Strategy Team;**

(3) that any further changes required to the 2020/21 strategy be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance;

(f) delegate authority to the Leader of the Council, following consultation with the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make appropriate changes to the budget for 2020/21.

9. Arrangements for SODC Local Plan following Holding Direction by the Secretary of State.

Report by the Corporate Director for Place & Growth (CC9) To Follow

South Oxfordshire District Council submitted its Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for examination in March 2019. In October 2019, following a period in which the new South Oxfordshire administration were considering either withdrawing or significantly amending their Local Plan, they were issued with a Holding Direction by the Secretary of State. This has had the effect of preventing them from withdrawing their plan. Since October discussions have been taking place between the District Council and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to try and find a way to allow the due process of examining the Local Plan to continue. The holding direction remains in place.

In his most recent letter to South Oxfordshire District Council on the 7th January 2020, the Secretary of State reiterated that the Government is committed to ensuring every area has an up to date and suitably ambitious Local Plan in place. In addition to considering Local Plan intervention under section 21 and 27 the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (“the 2004 Act”), he also stated that he is considering whether it is appropriate to exercise powers under section 27A of, and paragraph 7B of Schedule A1 to, the 2004 Act and invite Oxfordshire County Council to prepare the South Oxfordshire Local Plan.

Paragraph 7B of Schedule A1 to the 2004 Act provides:

“If the Secretary of State—

- (a) thinks that a lower-tier planning authority are failing or omitting to do anything it is necessary for them to do in connection with the **preparation, revision or adoption** of a development plan document, and
- (b) invites the upper-tier county council to **prepare or revise** the document, the upper-tier county council may **prepare or revise** (as the case may be) the development plan document.”

Paragraph 44 of the Explanatory Notes as set out in the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 (the amending legislation) states: “Where a county council accepts the invitation, they are responsible for preparing the document and having it examined. They may then approve the document (or approve it subject to modifications recommended by the inspector)”.

The Secretary of State’s letter of 7th January asked South Oxfordshire District Council to outline, by 31st January 2020, any exceptional circumstances as to why they do not have a plan in place that should be taken into account when a decision on next steps is made. The Secretary of State’s decision is awaited as to how he

now intends to proceed, including whether to formally invite the County Council to prepare the South Oxfordshire Local Plan. Should the County Council agree to accept any such invitation then it would require satisfactory assurances that, as set out under the provisions of the 2004 Act, its costs would be fully recovered.

In the event of the receipt of an invitation by the Secretary of State to prepare or revise the South Oxfordshire Local Plan pursuant to powers under section 27A of, and paragraph 7B of Schedule A1 to, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Council is RECOMMENDED to accept such an invitation subject to satisfactory assurances being received in relation to the recovery of its costs.

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 10 February at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders