



Notice of a Meeting

Education Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 4 September 2019 at 1.00 pm County Hall

Membership

Chairman Councillor Michael Waine
Deputy Chairman - Councillor John Howson

<i>Councillors:</i>	Ted Fenton	Jeannette Matelot	Emma Turnbull
	Mrs Anda Fitzgerald- O'Connor	Gill Sanders	

Co-optees:

By Invitation: Donald McEwan Carole Thomson

Notes: *Date of next meeting: 20 November 2019*

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

- a focus on the following key areas:
 - work in relation to the education strategy, and including review of an annual report on progress;
 - constructive challenge on performance issues highlighting issues where the Committee can support the improvement dialogue;
 - reviewing the Council's education functions including early years, Special Education Needs and school place planning;
 - reviewing the progress of, and any issues emanating from, the School Organisation Stakeholder Group with regard to admissions patterns and arrangements;
 - reviewing issues raised by the Schools Forum.
- assists the Council in its role of championing good educational outcomes for Oxfordshire's children and young people;
- provides a challenge to schools and academies and to hold them to account for their academic performance;
- promotes jointed up working across organisations in the education sector within Oxfordshire.

How can I have my say?

We welcome the views of the community on any issues in relation to the responsibilities of this Committee. Members of the public may ask to speak on any item on the agenda or may suggest matters which they would like the Committee to look at. **Requests to speak must be submitted to the Committee Officer below no later than 9 am on the working day before the date of the meeting.**

For more information about this Committee please contact:

Chairman	-	<i>Councillor Michael Waine</i> <i>Email: michael.waine@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i>
Senior Policy Officer	-	<i>Diane Cameron, Tel: (01865) 896450</i> <i>Email: diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i>
<i>Policy & Partnership Officer</i>	-	<i>Diane Cameron, Tel: 07584 481243</i> <i>Email: diane.cameron@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i>
Committee Officer	-	<i>Deborah Miller, Tel: 07920 084239</i> <i>deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i>

Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

August 2019

About the County Council

The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 63 councillors who are democratically elected every four years. The Council provides a range of services to Oxfordshire's 678,000 residents. These include:

schools	social & health care	libraries and museums
the fire service	roads	trading standards
land use	transport planning	waste management

Each year the Council manages £0.9 billion of public money in providing these services. Most decisions are taken by a Cabinet of 9 Councillors, which makes decisions about service priorities and spending. Some decisions will now be delegated to individual members of the Cabinet.

About Scrutiny

Scrutiny is about:

- Providing a challenge to the Cabinet
- Examining how well the Cabinet and the Authority are performing
- Influencing the Cabinet on decisions that affect local people
- Helping the Cabinet to develop Council policies
- Representing the community in Council decision making
- Promoting joined up working across the authority's work and with partners

Scrutiny is NOT about:

- Making day to day service decisions
- Investigating individual complaints.

What does this Committee do?

The Committee meets up to 6 times a year or more. It develops a work programme, which lists the issues it plans to investigate. These investigations can include whole committee investigations undertaken during the meeting, or reviews by a panel of members doing research and talking to lots of people outside of the meeting. Once an investigation is completed the Committee provides its advice to the Cabinet, the full Council or other scrutiny committees. Meetings are open to the public and all reports are available to the public unless exempt or confidential, when the items would be considered in closed session.

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, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting

A hearing loop is available at County Hall.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
2. **Declarations of Interest - see guidance note of the back page**
3. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 18)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2019 (**ESC4**) and to receive information arising from them.

4. **Petitions and Public Address**
5. **Reintegration Timetabling (Pages 19 - 30)**

1:10

Education Scrutiny Committee has identified the use of Reintegration timetables for pupils by schools in Oxfordshire as a practice worthy of focused attention.

The Department for Education non-statutory guidance 'School attendance Guidance for maintained schools, academies, independent schools and local authorities July 2019 is clear in the section Frequently Asked Questions "Can a school place a pupil on a part-time timetable?"

As a rule, no. All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education. In very exceptional circumstances there may be a need for a temporary part-time timetable to meet a pupil's individual needs. For example where a medical condition prevents a pupil from attending full-time education and a part-time timetable is considered as part of a re-integration package. A part-time timetable must not be treated as a long-term solution. Any pastoral support programme or other agreement must have a time limit by which point the pupil is expected to attend full-time or be provided with alternative provision.

In agreeing to a part-time timetable, a school has agreed to a pupil being absent from school for part of the week or day and therefore must record it as authorised absence."

The use of Reintegration timetables by schools in Oxfordshire has been identified as a cause for concern by The Children's Trust, Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children's Board and consequently features in the Oxfordshire Learner Engagement Strategy.

When a pupil is on a Reintegration timetable, that pupil is not in receipt of additional tutoring or other alternative provision. Equally, the pupil is not under the supervision of professional staff.

Oxfordshire County Attendance Team requires all schools in Oxfordshire to report each pupil on a Re-integration timetable. The County Attendance Team (since January 2019 only) then logs each report and follows up with the school each half term that the pupil has been returned to a full-time timetable or, if not, what the future plan for the child's ongoing education is.

All Reintegration timetables should be short term, designed to return the pupil to their full-time entitlement as soon as possible and fully and explicitly consented to by parents.

The Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider and note this report.

6. Alternative Provision Commissioning Strategy (Pages 31 - 56)

1:40

Education Scrutiny Committee has requested a briefing on progress to date with commissioning arrangements for Alternative Provision (AP) for Oxfordshire's children. The existing arrangements, whereby Meadowbrook College provides AP for OCC and schools in Oxfordshire will be reviewed and then re-commissioned in line with best practice nationally.

Notice has been given to Meadowbrook College on the implied contract with OCC with the termination date under the current arrangements being 2021. It is expected that Meadowbrook, as the main current provider of AP, will bid for the new service along with any other new market providers. The aim is to ensure that alternative provision is able to meet the needs of all Oxfordshire children who need it by offering both preventative provision and statutory provision for permanently excluded children.

The governance for this action sits within the overall Learner Engagement Strategy. The work will be delivered through the Alternative Provision Project Board.

The Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider and note this report.

7. Sufficiency of School Places Update

2:25

The committee will receive a presentation on sufficiency of school places for information and to inform future discussion.

Members of Scrutiny Committee have requested an update on population trends affecting the provision of education services for children and young people in the county. These trends are expected to inform a strategy to meet demand to be presented later in the year.

The Education Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to note the presentation given and receive a further report on actions to meet the provision of Education services later in the year.

8. Update on Oxfordshire Schools Repair & Maintenance, Rebuilds and New Builds (Pages 57 - 64)

3:10

A 6-month update following that made in March 2019, to bring together all capital works issues and updates on schools in Oxfordshire. (For Information Only).

The Committee is asked to note the update.

9. Forward Plan and Committee Business (Pages 65 - 66)

3:30

An opportunity to discuss and prioritise future topics for the Committee, potential approaches to its work and to discuss the schedule for future meetings.

Close of meeting

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.