

County Council

14 July 2020

Agenda

*If you wish to view proceedings please click on this [live stream link](#).
However, that will not allow you to participate in the 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.

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, 14 July 2020 at 10.30 am

Virtual

***Due to guidelines imposed on social distancing by the Government
this meeting will be held remotely***

*Due to the current guidelines regarding social distancing this meeting of the County Council will be held remotely. Normally requests to speak at a public meeting are requested by 9 am on the preceding day to the published date of a meeting. However, during the current situation and to facilitate these new arrangements we are asking that requests to speak are submitted by 9am **four** working days before the meeting i.e. 9 am on Wednesday 8 July together with a transcript of your presentation emailed to deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk*

***If you wish to view proceedings please click on this [live stream link](#).
However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.***



Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

July 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 this 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.

AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 May 2020 (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

This Council meeting will be held virtually in order to conform with current guidelines regarding social distancing. Normally requests to speak at this public meeting are required by 9 am on the day preceding the published date of the meeting. However, during the current situation and to facilitate these new arrangements we are asking that requests to speak are submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting i.e. 9 am on 8 July 2020. Requests to speak should be sent to Deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk together with a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the technology fails then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9 am 2 working days before the meeting.

Where a meeting is held virtually and the addressee is unable to participate virtually their written submission will be accepted.

Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

7. Questions with Notice from Members of the Public

8. Questions with Notice from Members of the Council

9. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 5 - 10)

Report of the Cabinet Meetings held on 19 November 2019, 17 December 2019, 21 January 2020, 25 February 2020, 17 March 2020, 13 May 2020, 26 May 2020 and 16 June 2020 (CC9).

10. Director for Public Health Annual Report (Pages 11 - 32)

Report by the Director of Public Health (CC10)

This is the 2019/20 Director of Public Health Annual Report for Oxfordshire. The purpose of a Director of Public Health is to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Oxfordshire. This is done by reporting publicly and independently on issues which affect the health and wellbeing of the population in Oxfordshire and by making recommendations for improvement to a wide range of organisations. Producing a report is a statutory duty of Directors of Public Health.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the report.

11. Scrutiny Annual Report (Pages 33 - 52)

The Scrutiny Annual Report (CC11) highlights the key work undertaken by the Council's scrutiny committees to address current and emerging issues including the delivery of improved services for the residents of Oxfordshire.

The report 2019-2020 is presented here to full Council, having been considered by the Performance Scrutiny Committee on 9 July 2020. Additional comments from the Committee will be summarised by the Chairman of the Performance Scrutiny Committee.

Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the report.

12. Audit & Governance Committee Annual Report (Pages 53 - 70)

Report by the Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee (CC12).

The Annual Report sets out the role of the Audit & Governance Committee and summarises the work that has been undertaken both as a Committee and through the support of the Audit Working Group in 2019/20.

Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the report.

13. **Appointment of Independent Persons (Member Code of Conduct)** (Pages 71 - 74)

Report by the Monitoring Officer (**CC13**).

The County Council must appoint one or more Independent Persons whose views are to be sought, and considered, by the authority before it makes its decision on an allegation that a councillor has breached the Members' Code of Conduct.

Independent Persons perform a key role in the Council's procedures for investigating any such complaints.

The Council currently has one Independent Person but it is prudent for more than one to be appointed. This report therefore recommends Council to make two additional appointments to this role.

Council is RECOMMENDED to appoint Mr Martyn Hocking and Mr Nicholas Holt-Kenwell to the role of Independent Persons for Oxfordshire County Council for a period of two years, renewable once.

14. **Health Scrutiny Arrangements** (Pages 75 - 82)

Report by Corporate Director for Commercial Development, Assets and Investment (**CC14**).

The report outlines changes to the scope of delegation of health scrutiny powers for the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC). The changes seek to ensure the Horton HOSC can scrutinise the development of a masterplan for the Horton General Hospital.

Council is RECOMMENDED to agree an amended scope of the health scrutiny powers delegated to the Horton Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to allow scrutiny of a masterplan for the Horton General Hospital, as set out in paragraph 15 (a and b).

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 Ian Hudspeth**

"This Council recognises the excellent work of all local government staff across Oxfordshire during the COVID-19 crisis. Councils have worked together in difficult times, showing that organisational barriers to joint working can be overcome.

All Councils have gone the extra mile in delivering services to our residents that prioritise the most vulnerable. This has inevitably incurred additional costs – c. £90

million across all tiers.

All Councils acknowledge the additional Government funding to date, but we have a duty to respond to the national financial challenge ahead and to be open with residents. This Council is currently forecasting a deficit of c. £24 million for the financial year 2020/21 and a further deficit of c. £40 million for 2021/22.

All Councils across Oxfordshire are now considering how they can balance budgets and protect frontline services. No Councillor nor party wants to see drastic cuts to vital Council services.

We, as a group of democratically elected leaders, should take the opportunity provided by the devolution white paper to ensure that we provide the best possible public services for our residents.

This Council calls on the Leader to write to the Secretary of State requesting that its 2021 elections are held over until 2022 to allow sufficient time to undertake an open and wide-ranging conversation with our local authority partners, residents and stakeholders to explore all options for a new future for Oxfordshire. Our aims are clear: safeguard public services in the future, support a vibrant local democracy and ensure a strong economy.”

16. Motion by Councillor John Sanders

"This Council supports the concept of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and will aim to introduce them when and where feasible."

17. 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 a 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 the report to a meeting of the Council's Performance Scrutiny Committee and/or to such other Committee the Council may decide appropriate."

18. Motion by Councillor Charles Mathew

"The recent decision by the Oxfordshire LEP to withdraw funding from the Loop Farm project (Duke's Cut to Loop Farm Roundabout), a long-promised relief road to the A40 around Oxford, undermines sensible solutions to the current endless traffic jams on the A40 between Witney and the Oxford roundabouts. Given that the use of public money should be productive, Council asks Cabinet to review the unproductive plans presently being offered and adopt a long term strategy that will meet the needs of travellers from afar and near for the next twenty years at least"

19. 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 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."

20. Motion by Councillor Nick Field-Johnson

"We need to end sewage pollution and make our rivers clean and fit for bathing and recreation once again. We have a "clean beach policy" - we now need a clean river

policy (such as a Blue flag approach for our rivers so that they can be clean and healthy once again).”

Oxfordshire County Council therefore asks the Leader of the Council to call on Oxfordshire MPs to insist that HM Government takes action to ban the dumping of raw and untreated sewage into our rivers and to support a clean river policy including the reintroduction of bathing quality status in our rivers.”

21. Motion by Councillor Suzanne Bartington

“Increasing tree cover is recognised as one of the most effective strategies to tackle the climate crisis, given the critical role of trees for absorbing and storing carbon. Additional benefits of appropriate tree species in suitable locations include mitigating flood risks, improving air quality, providing protected wildlife and contributing to improved mental health. Our Government has pledged to plant 30 million trees each year until 2024, and it is estimated that doubling UK woodland cover could absorb 10% of UK annual greenhouse emissions.

In July 2019 this Council declared a climate emergency and committed to achieving carbon net-zero status by 2030. Currently, trees cover 9% of Oxfordshire's land area, compared with an EU average of 35%. We therefore call upon the Cabinet Member for Environment to:

1. Recognise the critical role of existing tree preservation and planting for effective climate action and consider developing a Trees and Woodland Strategy.
2. Set a target for increased tree cover in Oxfordshire, and explore the viability of doubling coverage by 2045
3. Undertake a survey to identify existing tree cover and suitable sites for new trees (with consideration for habitat protection, land-use and biodiversity)
4. Work collaboratively with District, Town and Parish Councils, civic and commercial partners to deliver tree planting initiatives, considering maintenance responsibilities.
5. Influence developer schemes to ensure tree planting is undertaken, supported by relevant planning agreement contributions.
6. Write to the SoS for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to request additional local authority funding to support tree-planting and maintenance.”

22. Motion by Councillor Liz Brighthouse

“The impact of COVID 19 has exposed the enormous inequalities in our County and the senseless death of George Floyd followed by demonstrations across our County have highlighted the injustices and inequalities experienced by many. In particular, there have been calls for changes to the National Curriculum which reflects our past rather than our present or future needs.

Until 1988 Oxfordshire, as the Local Education Authority was responsible for what was taught in Oxfordshire Schools. When that ended, the responsibility went to the Secretary of State for Education advised by a National Curriculum Council, this was revised by Labour. In 2010 Michael Gove, as Secretary of State for a Education in the Coalition Government, abolished it completely and took power to himself advised by Dominic Cummings.

Now is the time to consider whether this is the most inclusive or effective way of determining what our children learn. The CBI and the TUC think that the National Curriculum is inappropriate for the needs of industry and the life chances of future employees. We see cries from those demonstrating in the streets that it is not inclusive and diverse. Now is the time for change.

This Council asks the Leader of the Council to seek support from the LGA and the CCN to lobby Central Government to bring forward proposals to devolve responsibility for the Curriculum to Local Government within a framework agreed by an Advisory Council made up of Local Authorities CBI, TUC, Teachers, Faith Groups, EHRC.”

23. Motion by Councillor Deborah Mcilveen

“This Council notes:

- The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on BAME communities, and the significant contribution of BAME individuals to the frontline COVID-19 response;
- The increase in hate crime towards people from BAME communities in Oxfordshire in recent years;
- The impact of the Hostile Environment on the ‘Windrush generation’ and others who have the right to live in this country;
- Structural racism is still an everyday reality for people from Black, Asian and other minority and refugee communities.

This Council also notes that:

- BAME communities are underrepresented in Oxfordshire County Council’s workforce, and that the Council’s Equality Policy and Strategy 2018-22 identifies the need to address this;
- Thousands of local people have expressed concerns about the existence of structural racism as part of the Black Lives Matters protests, vigils and events that have taken place in recent weeks across the county;
- Communities across Oxfordshire are united by a desire to live happy, healthy and productive lives, and recognise that reducing inequalities helps all communities to thrive;
- The County Council Equalities Strategy for employment, service delivery and participation needs to be updated.

This Council therefore:

1. Pledges to make Oxfordshire an Anti-racist County;
2. Will work with and listen to people experiencing racism;
3. Develop and implement an anti-racist strategy for employment, service delivery and participation; and
4. will work with local authorities, public bodies, employers, trade unions and community groups to achieve this.”

Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a Virtual pre-meeting briefing on **Monday 13 May 2020 at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders