

# County Council

8 September 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](mailto: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, 8 September 2020 at 10.30 am**

**Virtual**



Yvonne Rees  
Chief Executive

August 2020

Committee Officer: **Deborah Miller**  
Tel: 07920 084239; E-Mail: [deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

***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 2 September together with a transcript of your presentation emailed to [deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto: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.***

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.

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# AGENDA

## 1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 46)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 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 2 September 2020. Requests to speak should be sent to [Deborah.miller@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto: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 47 - 50)**

Report of the Cabinet Meetings held on 21 July 2020 and 18 August 2020 (CC9).

**10. Update report from the Leader of the Council following a meeting of Oxfordshire Local Authority leaders and the Chair of Oxfordshire LEP with Simon Clarke MP (Minister of state -Housing, Communities and Local Government) on the 7th September.**

Report by the Leader of the Council (CC10). - **REPORT TO FOLLOW**

**11. Appointment of Monitoring Officer**

Report by the Chief Executive (CC11). **REPORT TO FOLLOW**

Following the appointment in May of Steve Jordan as the Interim Monitoring Officer it is necessary for the Council to make a permanent appointment to this statutory role. The report sets out the procedural requirements in making such an appointment.

**12. Revised Budget 2020/2021 (Pages 51 - 78)**

Report by Director of Finance (CC12).

The Revised Budget 2020/21 Report to Cabinet on 18 August 2020 sets out the financial impact of the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the additional funding that has been received from central government.

Councils have a legal duty to balance their budgets each year and act to avoid the possibility that expenditure might exceed available income in any year. This means that Oxfordshire County Council, like other councils across the country, has no option but to take significant cost-saving measures to address this unavoidable funding shortfall. The report sets out the actions required to address the risk of overspend and reflects the additional costs incurred by the Council in the response phase.

The revised budget will provide a balanced budget for 2020/21 that includes budgets to meet the additional costs of COVID-19 to enable effective budget management.

Under the Council's Financial Regulations, Council approval is required for any virement greater than £1m that involves a major change in policy (as assessed by the Section 151 officer) requires Council approval. The virements required as part of the Revised Budget 2020/21 fall within this definition. However, the Revised Budget for 2020/21 does not change the calculation of the Council Tax Requirement or Basic Amount of Council Tax for 2020/21 approved by Council in February 2020 as required under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

**Council is RECOMMENDED to:**

- (a) *approve the savings set out in Annex 1;*
- (b) *approve the revised revenue budget for 2020/21 set out in Annex 2.*

**13. Treasury Management 2019/20 Outturn (Pages 79 - 96)**

Report by Director of Finance (**CC13**).

The report sets out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the financial year 2019/20 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report includes Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator Outturn, Investment Strategy, and interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

**Council is RECOMMENDED to note the Council's Treasury Management Activity in 2019/20.**

**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*

**14. Motion by Councillor Deborah Mcilveen**

"This Council notes:

- The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic [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 is being updated and this is integral to renewal and recovery for Oxfordshire.

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 and any other stakeholders to achieve this.”

## **15. Motion by Councillor Tim Bearder**

“Council recognises the frustration and disappointment that residents in South Oxfordshire feel after their Local Plan was taken out of the district councils hands and forced through to the Examination in Public by the Secretary of State following the May 2019 elections .

Despite assurances from Mr Jenrick and the local MP, John Howell, that changes could be made during the Examination in Public, the Inspector has announced that he is minded to pass the plan largely as it is - even with STRAT13, which the County Council’s officers expressed concerns over in relation to transport impacts.

Given the Secretary of State said in a recent interview that he wants to introduce changes to the planning system that allow local people to protect environmentally sensitive land like Green Belt, and SSSI to "hand it onto the next generation", this council calls on the leader to write to the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government, to ask that he respects the outcome of any vote by SODC's elected Councillors on whether to adopt the plan.”

## **16. Motion by Councillor Nicholas Field-Johnson**

“We need to end sewage pollution and make our rivers clean and fit for recreation once again. We have in this Country a "clean beach policy" - we now need a clean river policy (such as a Blue Flag approach for our rivers so that they can again become clean and healthy).”

Oxfordshire County Council therefore requests the Leader of the Council to write to Oxfordshire MPs and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, to ask that HM Government takes urgent action to ban the dumping of raw and untreated sewage into our rivers and to support a clean river policy including the reintroduction of quality status in order to re-establish the high quality of water in our rivers.”

## **17. Motion by Councillor Charles Mathew**

“The decision, last autumn now, by the Oxfordshire LEP to withdraw the funding from the Loop Farm project (Duke’s Cut to Loop Farm Roundabout), a long-promised relief road to the A40 round Oxford, undermines sensible solutions to the endless traffic jams on the A40 between Witney and Oxford roundabouts. Given that the use of public money should be productive.

Council asks Cabinet to review the plans presently being offered and adopt a long-term strategy that will meet the public’s needs for the next twenty years at least and should include serious consideration of a rail link from Carterton, Witney and Eynsham to Oxford.”

## **18. Motion by Councillor Jane Hanna**

“Buckingham, Oxfordshire and West Integrated Care System (BOB) is an exemplar. A local pilot for an Oxfordshire Population Health and Care Needs Framework has stalled since February and during the NHS Level 4 and now 3 (Pandemic response) awaiting a decision by BOB under national instruction. It marks an early test case of the value placed on local communities across Oxfordshire by non-elected agencies.

The pilot in OX12 targeted a population of over 27,000. The local community endured the loss of a GP practice, a vibrant community hospital, with no delivery of infrastructure needed for 1000 new houses. A further 50% increase in housing is planned. There have been many excess deaths in recent months disproportionately impacting care homes. A starting point for recovery would be a clear commitment to completing the population-based pilot with a plan acceptable locally. A successful completion of this pilot would ensure consideration of local communities by people making decisions who do not know our local communities, who are less effective in securing confidence, and are not accountable to the public.

Council calls on the leader to influence a positive commitment now within BOB to the OX12 pilot. In addition, we request that he send an open letter to the Prime Minister, the Select Committees for Health and Social Care, Housing, Communities and Local Government to urge the vital importance of safeguarding local democracy and scrutiny as non-elected decision-makers implement policy across Oxfordshire.”

## **19. Motion by Councillor Bob Johnston**

“Council asks the Cabinet Member for Environment that full consideration be given to cyclists and pedestrians when future schedules are drawn up for grass cutting and vegetation management.

Along with vision splays, verges next to footpaths and cycle tracks must be given greater priority and cut earlier and more frequently than at present.

Other flower-rich highway verges where these priorities do not apply must be cut only once a year at the end of October when insects and birds have finished



breeding. This will both maximise the potential for the County's wildlife to thrive and prevent footways and cycle tracks becoming unpleasant to use, especially in wet weather."

## 20. 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."

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### Pre-Meeting Briefing

There will be a pre-meeting briefing at County Hall on **Monday 7 September at 10.15 am** for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders