

County Council

8 February 2022

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 email democracy@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 February 2022 at 10.30 am

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

Please note that Council meetings are currently taking place in-person (not virtually) with Covid precautions at the venue. Meetings will continue to be live-streamed and those who wish to view them are strongly encouraged to do so online to minimise the risk of Covid-19 infection.

If you wish to view proceedings, please click on this [Live Stream Link](#). However, that will not allow you to participate in the meeting.

If you still wish to attend this meeting in person, you must contact the Committee Officer by 9am four working days before the meeting and they will advise if you can be accommodated at this meeting and of the detailed Covid-19 safety requirements for all attendees.

Please note that in line with current government guidance *all* attendees are strongly encouraged to take a lateral flow test in advance of the meeting.



Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

January 2022

Committee Officer: **Chris Reynolds**
Tel: 07542 029441; E-Mail: chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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 - 16)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2021 (**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

Currently council meetings are taking place in-person (not virtually) with Covid safety procedures operating in the venues. However, members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting 'virtually' through an online connection. While you can ask to attend the meeting in person, you are strongly encouraged to attend 'virtually' to minimise the risk of Covid-19 infection.

Please also note that in line with current government guidance all attendees are strongly encouraged to take a lateral flow test in advance of the meeting.

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 Wednesday 2nd February 2022. Requests to speak should be sent to chris.reynolds@oxfordshire.co.uk . You will be contacted by the officer regarding the arrangements for speaking.

If you ask to attend in person, the officer will also advise you regarding Covid-19 safety at the meeting. If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit 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. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.

7. Oxfordshire County Council and Cherwell District Council Section 113 agreement

This report will follow as the Joint Shared Services and Personnel Committee which will make recommendations to Council meets after agenda publication, on 1 February 2022

Report of Chief Executive

8. Pay Policy Statement 2022/2023

This report will follow as the Remuneration Committee which will make recommendations to Council meets after agenda publication, on 2 February 2022

Report of Director of Human Resources

9. Appointment of Interim Chief Executive

This report will follow as the Remuneration Committee which will make recommendations to Council meets after agenda publication, on 2 February 2022

Report of Director of Law and Governance

10. Appointment of Returning Officer

Please note this report will follow as proposed future arrangements are being reviewed for recommendation to Council

Report of Corporate Director Commercial Development, Assets and Investment

11. Budget and Business planning 2022/23 - 2025/26 (Pages 17 - 432)

Report by Director of Finance and Corporate Director Customers, Organisational Development & Resources (**CC11**)

The purpose of this report is to set out the Cabinet's proposed budget for 2022/23, medium term financial plan to 2025/26 and capital programme to 2031/32, together with a number of strategies and policies that the Council is required to approve for the 2022/23 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 – Strategic Plan

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

Section 4 – Revenue Budget Strategy

Section 5 – Capital Budget Strategy

The Council is RECOMMENDED to:

- a. adopt the Strategic Plan as set out in Section 2
- 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 strategy – at Section 4) approve:
 - (1) the council tax and precept calculations for 2022/23 set out in Section 4.3 and in particular:
 - (i) a precept of £435,816,475;
 - (ii) a council tax for band D equivalent properties of £1,651.61;
 - (2) a budget for 2022/23 as set out in Section 4.4;
 - (3) a medium term financial strategy for 2022/23 to 2025/26 as set out in Section 4.1 (which incorporates changes to the existing medium term financial strategy as set out in Section 4.2);
 - (4) the Financial Strategy for 2022/23 at Section 4.5;
 - (5) the Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy Statement 2022/23 at Section 4.6 including
 - (i) the Chief Finance Officer’s recommended level of General Balances for 2022/23 (Section 4.6), and
 - (ii) the planned level of Earmarked Reserves for 2022/23 to 2025/26 (Section 4.6)
- d. (in respect of capital – at Section 5) approve:
 - (1) the Capital & Investment Strategy for 2021/22 to 2031/32 including the Prudential Indicators and Minimum Revenue Provision Methodology Statement as set out in Section 5.1;
 - (2) a Capital Programme for 2021/22 to 2031/32 as set out in Section 5.5 which includes new capital proposals set out in Section 5.6 and the Property Strategy set out in Section 5.4; and
 - (3) the Investment Strategy for Property Investment for 2022/23 set out in Section 5.3.
- e. (in respect of treasury management) approve:
 - (1) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2022/23 at Section 5.2 including the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators and the Specified Investment and Non-Specified Investment Instruments.that any further changes required to the 2022/23 strategy be delegated to the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance

12. Appointment of external auditors (Pages 433 - 444)

The purpose of this report is to consider the appointment of external auditors for the period 2023/24 – 2027/28

RECOMMENDATION

The Council is RECOMMENDED to accept the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) invitation to 'opt in' to the sector led option for the appointment of external auditors for the period 2023/24 – 2027/28
