

County Council

11 July 2023

Agenda



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

To: **Members of the County COUNCIL**

Notice of a Meeting of the County Council

Tuesday, 11 July 2023 at 10.30 am

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reeves".

Martin Reeves
Chief Executive

July 2023

Committee Officer:

Colm Ó Caomhánaigh

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AGENDA

1. Minutes (Pages 1 - 8)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2023 (**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

Members of the public who wish to speak on an item on the agenda at this meeting, or present a petition, can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection. Requests must be submitted no later than 9am one working day before the meeting i.e., 9am on Monday 10 July 2023. Requests to speak should be sent to committeesdemocraticservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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 9am on the day of the meeting. 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. Annual Report of the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Pages 9 - 30)

Report by the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee is under a constitutional duty to prepare an annual report. That report is set out in Annex 1 and documents the breadth and depth of the Committee's work over the 2022/23 municipal year.

Council is RECOMMENDED to: Receive the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report set out in Annex 1.

10. Report of the Cabinet (Pages 31 - 38)

Report of the Cabinet meetings of 23 May 2023 and 20 June 2023.

11. Special Urgency Decisions (Pages 39 - 66)

Report by the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

The Constitution makes provision for the taking of an urgent decision. Part 8.1 Section 17.3 requires that "In any event the Leader of the Council will submit quarterly reports to the Council on any executive decisions taken in the circumstances set out in Rule 16 (special urgency) in the preceding three months. The report will include the number of decisions so taken and a summary of the matters in respect of which those decisions were taken.

Council is RECOMMENDED to note the use of Special Urgency for Key Decisions on 9 June, 29 June and 30 June 2023.

12. Independent Members of the Audit and Governance Committee (Pages 67 - 72)

Report of the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

The Council is RECOMMENDED to introduce an allowance of £3,156 per annum for new Independent Members of the Audit and Governance Committee in line with the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

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 FRIDAY BEFORE THE MEETING

13. Motion by Councillor Freddie van Mierlo

Publishing the voting and attendance records of elected representatives is critical for democratic accountability. It allows residents to make informed decisions during elections and hold elected representatives to account. This council therefore requests the Director of Law and Governance to publish on the Council's website:

1. A summary of the attendance records of members at Full Council (as is done by district councils, including South Oxfordshire District Council).
2. A record of the individual votes of members made at Full Council as required under the Constitution Part 3.1, section 17.2.

The information should be displayed prominently on the appropriate section of the website and be easily accessible.

Votes taken by show of hands at the Chair's discretion will not require individual votes to be published.

The Director of Law and Governance is not requested to retrospectively publish voting or attendance records, but to do so going forwards at the earliest opportunity.

14. Motion by Councillor Imade Edosomwan

The ongoing conflict in Sudan has resulted in the loss of countless lives, displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, and a severe humanitarian crisis.

Oxfordshire has a proud history of providing support for those fleeing war. A great example is the Ukrainians fleeing the conflict in Ukraine. Oxfordshire has continued to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Ukraine.

We are dismayed at the government's chaotic and inadequate response. They have failed to evacuate British citizens, offer sanctuary to family and dependants, or waive existing barriers to settlement and support in the UK.

This motion condemns the war in Sudan and calls on the government to redouble their efforts to work urgently with regional partners to secure a permanent ceasefire and to engage in negotiations to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the crisis.

Oxfordshire County Council resolves to request Cabinet to continue to support refugees locally, including by:

- working with the Oxfordshire Sudanese community to identify and support new arrivals.
- collaborating with organisations in the public/voluntary sectors so they can provide appropriate support, especially for those with physical and psychological trauma.
- briefing frontline council staff so they understand needs and pathways to relevant services.

We further resolve to request the Leader to write to the Home Secretary to:

- expand safe, legal routes for extended family of British citizens and Sudanese asylum seekers.

- waive existing barriers to support including the habitual residence test.
- establish a formal programme mirroring the Ukrainian settlement scheme for Sudanese nationals seeking sanctuary.

15. Motion by Councillor Bob Johnston

This council welcomes the feasibility study for a railway line in the west of Oxfordshire linking Carterton to Cowley. With the possibility of around 10,000 additional employment opportunities being created on the north and west side of the city, (4,500 Oxford North; 1,000 Botley Road; 4,000 Osney Mead; up to 1,000 at Oxpens) there has never been a more important need for a mass transit system connecting the city with the expanding towns along the A40 corridor.

This Council urges the Cabinet to request the Corporate Director Environment & Place to build upon the results of the recently published feasibility study by entering into discussions with central government and other possible funders to identify sources of funding that would take the project forward, either in phases or as a complete route.

Councillors declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed 'Declarations of Interest' or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (i.e. payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member 'must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself' and that 'you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned'.

Members Code – Other registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your other registerable interests then you must declare an interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person's quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

Other registrable interests include:

- a) Any unpaid directorships
- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority.

- c) Any body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

Members Code – Non-registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.