

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF COUNCIL – 7 NOVEMBER 2023
SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS**

ITEM/TIME	ITEM	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Seconder; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)
1 10:30	Minutes (<i>page 1</i>) To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2023.	
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Declarations of Interest	
4 10:35	Official Communications The following statement was made on behalf of the County Council: “We share the grief and the fear of the many Oxfordshire residents with family and friends in Israel and Gaza. We stand in solidarity with all our communities across the county and call for the violence to end and for international law to be respected. We also condemn in the strongest terms the anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim attacks that have taken place here in the UK, including in Oxfordshire. These are profoundly wrong - there is no place for racism or intolerance in our county. Now, more than ever, we must stand together, united in mutual respect and understanding.” Some of Oxfordshire’s most dedicated carers were celebrated at an event marking the significant milestones they have achieved	

	<p>while supporting others. Shared Lives is a scheme run by Oxfordshire County Council that matches caring households with adults who have additional care needs, offering them a place to stay and grow their independence. Around 20 households were recognised for between 10 and 30 years involvement with the scheme.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council and its long-term contractor Milestone Infrastructure have been recognised in three categories of the Highways Awards for their collaboration on the north Oxford corridor improvement project. The project won the Environmental Sustainability Award for de-carbonisation. Congratulations to all involved.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council has also won the award for the best climate action and decarbonisation initiative at the recent Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Service Awards 2023. It was recognised for its energy insights tool and energy flexibility trials, successfully demonstrating the crucial role local authorities can play in moving away from the use of polluting fossil fuels. Congratulations to all of the officers involved.</p>	
5	<p>Appointments</p> <p>“Council is requested to approve the following changes to Committees:</p> <p>People Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Councillor Corkin to replace Councillor Walker</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council & Employees Joint Consultative Committee: Councillor Fawcett to replace Councillor Rooke</p> <p>Council is requested to note the following change to the Shadow Cabinet notified by the Leader of the Opposition:</p>	

	Councillor Corkin to replace Councillor Ford as Shadow Cabinet Member for SEND Improvement.	
6 10:40 45 mins	Petitions and Public Address <i>Any person may address the Council on an item on the agenda subject to the provisions in CPR 10.2 of the Constitution</i> Petitions – 3 minutes to speak Public Address – 2 minutes to speak on this occasion (reduced from 5 minutes at the discretion of the Chair – CPR 10.3).	Petitions None Public Address <u>Item 18</u> John Sanders John Skinner Danny Yee Richard Parnham Anne Stares Anne Gwinnett Robin Tucker Clinton Pugh Nigel Clarke Zuhura Plummer City Cllr Emily Kerr David Henwood Lily Martyn James Schumann Sarah Lockyer Abby White Duncan Parkes City Cllr Jemima Hunt <u>Item 21</u> Bernadette Evans
7. 11:25 15 mins	Questions with Notice from Members of the Public See Annex 2 for questions and responses. One supplementary question allowed for each. 1: Mr Peter West 2: Mr Richard Parham 3: Ms Anne Stares 4: Ms Bernadette Evans 5: Ms Lynne Davies 6: Mr Ian Yeatman 7: Mr Mathew Webb	
8.	Questions with Notice from Members of the Council	

11:40 30 mins	<p>See Annex 3 for questions and responses. One supplementary question allowed for each.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reeves to Leffman 2. Lygo to Gant 3. Constance to Gant 4. Reeves to Howson 5. Reeves to Leffman 6. Ford to Gregory 7. Ford to Gant 8. Corkin to Fawcett 9. Pressel to Leffman 10. Bartholomew to Gant 11. Ford to Gant 12. Walker to Roberts 13. Walker to Gant 14. Fenton to Roberts 15. Thomas to Saul 16. Walker to Gant 17. Pressel to Gant 18. Pressel to Sudbury 19. Snowdon to Roberts 20. Snowdon to Roberts 21. Baines to Levy 22. Baines to Gant 23. Baines to Gant 24. Cherry to Gant 25. Elphinstone to Gant 26. Fenton to Fawcett 	
9. 12:10 15 mins	<p>Scrutiny Annual Report (Page 41)</p> <p><i>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i></p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to receive the Scrutiny Annual Report.</p>	M Reeves SEC Baines S Hanna
10. 12:25 30 mins	<p>Report of the Cabinet (Page 67)</p> <p>Leader (Liz Leffman) Pg 67: Item 1</p> <p>Climate Change Delivery & Environment (Pete Sudbury) Pg 67: Item 2</p> <p>Pg 68: Item 3</p>	<p>Q Brighthouse (1) Q Enright (1) Q Middleton (1)</p> <p>Q Hicks (2) Q Saul (2) Q Cherry (3) Q Johnston (3)</p>

	<p>Adult Social Care (Tim Bearder) Pg 68: Item 4</p> <p>Children, Education & Young People's Services (John Howson) Pg 68: Item 5</p> <p>Pg 69: Item 6 Item 7 Item 8</p> <p>Community & Corporate Services (Neil Fawcett) Pg 70: Item 9</p> <p>Finance (Dan Levy) Pg 70: Item 10</p> <p>Item 11</p> <p>Pg 71: Item 12</p> <p>Item 13 Item 14</p> <p>Pg 72: Item 15 Item 16</p> <p>Infrastructure & Development Strategy (Judy Roberts) Pg 72: Item 17</p> <p>Public Health, Inequalities & Community Safety (Nathan Ley) Pg 73: Item 18</p> <p>Transport Management (Andrew Gant) Pg 73: Item 19 Pg 74: Item 20</p>	<p>Q O'Connor (4) Q Povolotsky (4) Q Hanna (4)</p> <p>Q Brighthouse (5) Q Povolotsky (5) Q Hanna (5)</p> <p>Q Hanna (7) Q O'Connor (8) Q Brighthouse (8) Q Hanna (8)</p> <p>Q Phillips (9) Q Hanna (9)</p> <p>Q Baines (10) Q Enright (10) Q Middleton (10) Q Miller (10) Q Bartholomew (11) Q Baines (11) Q Phillips (11) Q Bartholomew (12) Q Hicks (12) Q Middleton (12) Q Baines (13) Q Bartholomew (14) Q Edosomwan (14) Q Enright (14) Q Bartholomew (15) Q Bartholomew (16) Q Baines (16) Q Phillips (16)</p> <p>Q Bartholomew (17) Q Enright (17) Q Hicks (17)</p> <p>Q Pressel (18) Q Edosomwan (18)</p> <p>Q Enright (20) Q Saul (20)</p>
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	Scrutiny Reports Pg 74: Item 21	Q Hannaby (20) Q Povolotsky (20) Q Smith (20)
12:55 40 mins	LUNCH	
11 13:35 10 mins	Strategic Leadership Team (Page 75) <i>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i> Council is RECOMMENDED to a) Approve the pay scale of £159,000 to £187,000 for the three proposed Executive Director roles; Executive Director of People, Executive Director of Place and Executive Director of Resources, which will form part of the Strategic Leadership Team; b) Appoint Stephen Chandler as permanent Executive Director of People and Lorna Baxter as permanent Executive Director of Resources at ED3 within the pay scale set out in recommendation 1; and c) Approve the Council's Pay Policy being amended at the next annual review in 2024 (Annex 1) to reflect the changes set out in this report.	M Leffman SEC Brighthouse S Baines S Hicks
12 13:45 5 mins	Appointment of Section 151 Officer (Page 105) <i>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i>	M Leffman SEC Brighthouse
13 13:50 5 mins	Changes to the Constitution of the Pension Fund Committee (Page 107) <i>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i> The Council is RECOMMENDED	M Johnston SEC Bulmer

	<p>(a) To agree the proposed changes by the Pension Fund Committee to their constitution as set out below:</p> <p>(i) The addition of two voting members, appointed by the County Council (this increases the number of county councillors from 5 to 7 members).</p> <p>(ii) The deletion of the two non-voting positions representing the Academy sector.</p> <p>b) To instruct the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer to give consideration to the requirements of political balance as set out in the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and present a report to Council at its next meeting for Council to consider nominations and confirm the relevant appointments to the Pension Fund Committee.</p>	
<p>14</p> <p>13:55</p> <p>5 mins</p>	<p>Calendar of Meetings 2024-25 (Page 111)</p> <p><i>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i></p> <p>COUNCIL IS RECOMMENDED to approve the calendar of meetings for the 2024-25 council year attached to the report.</p>	<p>M Chair SEC Vice Chair S Bartholomew</p>
<p>15</p> <p>14:00</p> <p>5 mins</p>	<p>Special Urgency Decision</p> <p><i>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i></p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to note the use of Special Urgency for a Key Decision on 17 August 2023.</p>	<p>M Leffman SEC Sudbury</p>
<p>16</p> <p>14:05</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Liz Brighthouse</p> <p><i>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i></p> <p>See Schedule Annex 1 for amendment.</p>	<p>M Brighthouse SEC Hicks Am Reeves SEC S Elphinstone S Edosomwan S Phillips</p>

	<p>This Council notes that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Since the change in legislation regarding Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in 2014 the partners delivering provision within the overall system have seen a reduction in resources, spiralling demand, a pandemic and major recruitment issues. · Academisation of our Schools has added to the complexity. In Oxfordshire all but one of our Secondary Schools are Academies and over half of our Primary Schools are Academies. · In Oxfordshire all schools struggle financially. · The Local Area Partnership inspection and similar inspections across the Country identified “systemic failures” across the whole system and families, Children and practitioners are currently suffering. · The System in England is £3.4bn in deficit in Oxfordshire this will amount to over £50m by March 2024. <p>45 years ago the Warnock Report set out the expectations for the system and SEND Delivery framework. It is time for another such report.</p> <p>This Council asks the Leader to write to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Education requesting them to set up a Commission urgently to consider the current needs, resources and systemic change which is needed to reform the System in order to support Children and Young People with SEND.”</p>	<p>S Baines S Gregory S Howson S Leffman</p>
<p>17</p> <p>14:35</p> <p>25 mins</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Andrew Gant</p> <p><i>Movers have 5 mins and others 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i></p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council is proud of our history of welcoming people seeking safety in our county. We believe that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • everyone has the right to seek safety, and everyone’s claim for asylum should be treated equally and fairly; 	<p>M Gant SEC O’Connor S Baines S Enright S Brighthouse S Miller S Middleton S Sudbury</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Government's 'anti-refugee' laws undermine internationally recognised rights for people fleeing war and persecution to seek safety; people seeking safety should be housed as our neighbours and as a part of our communities; the UK needs an asylum system that empowers people seeking safety to rebuild their lives and enables communities to welcome them; <p>Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> defend the right to seek safety from war and persecution in the UK by signing the national 'Fight the Anti-Refugee Laws' pledge; call on the UK Government to repeal the Illegal Migration Act and the Nationality and Borders Act, withdraw the UK–Rwanda partnership, request Cabinet to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work with Local Authorities and communities to build a refugee protection system that treats all people with dignity and compassion; continue to lobby against any UK Government plans to build or repurpose facilities in Oxfordshire to detain or warehouse people seeking safety; work with local organisations and people with lived experience of the asylum system to identify ways to mitigate the effects of these measures in Oxfordshire; consider joining the network of cities and towns which promote the inclusion and welfare of people who are fleeing violence and persecution and become a recognised Council of Sanctuary 	
18 15:00 30 mins	Motion by Councillor Liam Walker <i>Movers have 5 mins and others 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i>	M Walker SEC Reeves Am Enright SEC Hicks S Cherry (Am)

	<p>See Schedule Annex 1 for amendment.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council no longer has support for the:</p> <p>i. Cowley LTN scheme; and</p> <p>ii. East Oxford LTN scheme.</p> <p>Council now requests Cabinet to urgently consider setting in train the necessary executive steps to remove the Cowley LTNs as agreed by the Cabinet Member for Environment (including Transport) on 21st January 2021 and the East Oxford LTNs as agreed by Cabinet on Tuesday 17th October 2023.</p>	<p>S Baines (Am)</p> <p>S Brighthouse (Am)</p> <p>S Phillips</p> <p>S Fadlalla</p> <p>S Lygo</p> <p>S Elphinstone</p> <p>S Baines</p> <p>S Hicks</p> <p>S Coles</p> <p>S Edosomwan</p> <p>S Brighthouse</p> <p>S Bearder</p> <p>S Gant</p> <p>S Levy</p> <p>S Bartholomew</p>
19	<p>Motion by Councillor Mark Cherry</p> <p><i>Movers have 5 mins and others 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i></p> <p>Council requests Cabinet to consider approving the Councils for Fair Tax declaration.</p> <p>This commits Councils to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities. • Ensure IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes. • Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty. • Undertake due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately by suppliers as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates. • Demand clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers UK and overseas and their consolidated profit & loss position, given lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing. • Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business 	<p>M Cherry</p> <p>SEC Baines</p> <p>S Hicks</p> <p>S Enright</p> <p>S van Mierlo</p> <p>S Johnston</p> <p>S Middleton</p>

	<p>in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax. . <p>Council also requests the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer supporting calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.”</p>	
20	<p>Motion by Councillor Donna Ford</p> <p><i>Movers have 5 mins and others 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i></p> <p>Councillors note the increasing number of vacant bank and building society buildings on our high streets, which are largely the result of technological change. The loss of community banking services is of concern to many residents, especially older constituents and those with disabilities and adaptive needs.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire Council has set up a Banking Hub in Buckingham library for people to access banking services in the town centre.</p> <p>Established in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council through its Buckingham and Villages Community Board, with the support of Buckingham Town Council and community representatives, the temporary Banking Hub provides local people with access to banking services. This offers a counter service operated by the Post Office, where customers of all major banks and building societies can carry out regular cash transactions. It also offers a Community Banker service where customers can talk to their banking provider about more complicated issues. Community Bankers work on rotation, with a different bank or building society</p>	<p>M Ford SEC Reeves S Elphinstone S Fawcett S Povolotsky</p>

	<p>available on each day of the week, to ensure fair and equitable access to major banking and building society customers.</p> <p>Council requests the relevant Cabinet member for Community and Corporate Services and the Cabinet Member for Finance to take a lead from forward-thinking colleagues at Buckinghamshire Council and, working with its Town Council, and District Council partners, invite banks and building societies that have left – or are due to leave – our high streets to explore opportunities to work with this Council to set up similar banking hubs within appropriate Council libraries.</p>	
21	<p>Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves</p> <p><i>Movers have 5 mins and others 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i></p> <p>See Schedule Annex 1 for amendment.</p> <p>This Council recognises that the voice of small and medium-sized enterprises ('SMEs') have, too often, been overlooked.</p> <p>This Council resolves to request the Leader of the Council to appoint a Small Business Champion to provide a single point of contact for local businesspeople and advise members attending Cabinet and relevant scrutiny committees of the impact of Council policies on the county's SMEs.</p>	<p>M Reeves SEC Snowdon Am O'Connor</p>
22	<p>Motion by Councillor David Rouane</p> <p><i>Movers have 5 mins and others 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i></p> <p>Pride in the appearance of the public realm is important to our residents. Ensuring that streets and pavements are accessible, level, without hazards, clear of weeds and vegetation is essential for preventing long term damage to the footways, improving accessibility for all, visibility, reducing the chances of accidents, and also allowing people to have pride in their neighbourhood.</p>	<p>M Rouane SEC Ley</p>

	<p>Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the difficulties in maintaining weed clearance to a high standard in view of the expanding network of highways, and in the context of over a decade of budget cuts; and 2. Acknowledge the justified phasing out of glyphosate and herbicide-based methods based on health and environmental grounds; and 3. Recognise that the Council has a statutory duty to keep pavements free of weeds and hazards; and 4. Request the Cabinet Member for Transport Management to consider options for alternative methods of weed removal, and scheduled maintenance that are both cost-effective and environmentally friendly, including supporting the work of towns and parishes, local groups and individuals, that can be developed and trialled around the county, and for ongoing consideration of other methods. 5. Request that the Cabinet Member for Finance give due consideration to the findings of this report as part of the next round of budget setting. 6. Embrace collection of green matter from weeding and grass cutting and ask the Cabinet Member for Climate Change Delivery and Environment to consider reviewing a county owned Anaerobic digester facility. 	
23	<p>Motion by Councillor Liz Brighouse</p> <p><i>Movers have 5 mins and others 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</i></p> <p>See Schedule Annex 1 for amendment.</p> <p>Call the proposer and then seconder.</p>	<p>M Brighouse SEC Am Reeves SEC Ford S Bartholomew</p>

	<p>Since the Alliance governing Oxfordshire collapsed on 24th Sept 2023 the Council now has a minority Liberal Democrat Green Alliance administration. This leaves Oxfordshire, its employees and those who rely on it for services in a difficult position. At any time unacceptable decisions could be called in to Scrutiny or a Special Council Meeting and the Leader could be subject to no confidence votes. This Council wants to ensure the good governance of Oxfordshire and therefore calls on the Cabinet to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all Group Leaders and Spokespersons are equally involved in all issues relating to decision making and Governance of Oxfordshire. • Ensure that briefings are open to the Spokespeople of all three Groups. • Inform all Panels and Groups of any new arrangements that may be necessary as a result of no political group having overall control of the Council. 	
	CLOSE OF MEETING	