

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF COUNCIL – 10 SEPTEMBER 2024

SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

ITEM/TIME	ITEM	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Secondar; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)
1 10:30	Minutes To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2024 (CC1) and to receive information arising from them.	
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Declarations of Interest	
4 10:35 10 mins	Official Communications Congratulations to Oxfordshire students who have recently received their results for A levels, GCSEs and other specialist qualifications. Our thanks go to all the teachers, schools and settings who have made it possible for students to achieve their goals. This year we have also seen encouraging and improved outcomes in results for students with Special Educational Needs. Among young people for whom the Council is a Corporate Parent, we have had four university graduates, two with first class degrees and one graduate from the University of Oxford as well as nine new starters at universities this month. Our care experienced children have done better than ever at GSCE and A level. Congratulations to all of them.	

	<p>We have learned of the passing in August of former Councillor Teresa Smith. She was first elected as the Labour Member for the then Oxford South Division in 1985 with a majority of 5,460 votes, returned again in 1989, and stood down ahead of the 1993 elections. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.</p> <p><u>Save the dates:</u> Monday 16th December 2024 Carol Service with the Bishop of Dorchester, 6.30pm at St Michael's Church Abingdon</p> <p>Friday 10th January 2025 Chair's charity civic dinner, 7pm in Oxford.</p> <p><u>The following events were attended by the Chair of Council since the July Council meeting:</u></p> <p>10/07/2024 Europa School Leavers Ceremony - Culham 11/07/2024 Earth Trust Rose Planting - Long Wittenham 12/07/2024 British Empire Medal Presentation - Oxford 13/07/2024 Youth Concert St Edmunds School - Oxford 15/07/2024 OALC AGM at County Hall – Oxford 20/07/2024 Wantage Fire Station - Wantage 10/08/2024 Banbury Fire Station - Banbury 17/08/2024 Mayors Charity Lunch - Bicester 18/08/2024 Chair OCC Chairty afternoon tea at the Earth Trust - Long Wittenham 30/08/2024 Bullingdon Prison groundbreaking ceremony Bullingdon prison 6/09/2024 Vale of White Horse DC Chair's charity event - Faringdon 08/09/2024 Battle of Britain Mayor's civic service – Carterton</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Appointments</p> <p>Council is requested to approve the following change to the membership of the Audit & Governance Committee:</p>	

	<p>Councillor Hicks to replace Councillor Baines</p> <p>Council is asked to note changes to committee membership given effect by the Monitoring Officer on 21 August 2024 under the delegated authority set out in the Constitution under Part 7.2, section 6.4 (l) using the functions under Section 16(1) and Section 16(2) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 to give effect to the wishes of the political groups as regards membership of scrutiny committees and committees of the Council:</p> <p>Pension Fund Committee - Councillor Stevens to fill the vacancy</p> <p>Audit & Governance Committee - Councillor Johnston replaced Councillor Hanna.</p>	
<p>6</p> <p>10:45</p> <p>25 mins</p>	<p>Petitions and Public Address</p> <p><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></p> <p>Petitions – 3 minutes to speak</p> <p>Public Address – 3 minutes to speak on this occasion (reduced from 5 minutes at the discretion of the Chair – CPR 10.3)</p>	<p>Petitions</p> <p>Lesley McCourt: Remove the traffic restrictions in Crowell Road</p> <p>Pete Nellist: SEND Services</p> <p>Ella Buckingham: SEND Services</p> <p>Hannah Pearce: SEND Transport Services</p> <p>Public Address</p> <p>Item 14 Motion by Cllr Povolotsky: Claire Brenner</p> <p>Item 17 Motion by Cllr Sudbury: Dr Steve Smith</p> <p>Item 19 Motion by Cllr Povolotsky: Anna Gurl</p>

<p>7.</p> <p>11:10</p> <p>10 mins</p>	<p>Questions from Members of the Public</p> <p>See Annex 2 for questions and responses. One supplementary question allowed for each.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oxford City Councillor Linda Smith 2. Peter West 3. Bernadette Evans 4. Ian Yeatman 5. Richard Parnham 6. Emily Scaysbrook 7. Angus Wilkinson 	<p>Cllr Sudbury Cllr Gant Cllr Gant Cllr Gant Cllr Gant Cllr Gant Cllr Gregory</p>
<p>8</p> <p>11:20</p> <p>20 mins</p>	<p>Questions with Notice from Members of the Council</p> <p>See Annex 3 for questions and responses. One supplementary question allowed for each.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hicks to Gant 2. Cherry to Sudbury 3. Povolotsky to Gant 4. Povolotsky to Leffman 5. Povolotsky to Gregory 6. Pressel to Gant 7. Pressel to Gant 8. Pressel to Fawcett 9. Coles to Sudbury 10. Bartholomew to Roberts 11. Phillips to Gant 12. Middleton to Leffman 13. Middleton to Fawcett 14. Baines to Gant 15. Baines to Gant 16. Baines to Roberts 17. Walker to Roberts 18. Walker to Roberts 19. Walker to Roberts 	
<p>9</p> <p>11:40</p> <p>20 mins</p>	<p>Report of the Cabinet (Pages 11-14)</p> <p>Leader (Cllr Liz Leffman) Pg 11: Item 1</p> <p>Finance (Cllr Dan Lewy) Pg 11: Item 2 Item 3</p>	<p>Q Brighthouse</p> <p>Q Bartholomew Q Baines Q Enright Q Phillips</p>

	<p style="text-align: right;">Pg 12: Item 4</p> <p>Infrastructure & Development Strategy (Cllr Judy Roberts)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Pg 12: Item 5</p>	<p>Q Lygo Q Bartholomew</p> <p>Q Baines Q Cherry Q Enright Q Bartholomew</p> <p>Q Hicks</p>
<p>10</p> <p>12:00</p> <p>10 mins</p>	<p>Treasury Management Annual Performance 2023/24 (Pages 15-28)</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to note the Council's treasury management activity and outcomes in 2023/24.</p>	<p>M Levy SEC Leffman</p>
	<p>EXEMPT ITEM 11 WILL BE TAKEN IN PRIVATE SESSION</p>	
<p>11</p> <p>12:10</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Proposed Leadership Restructuring - Tiers 3 and 4</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p>	<p>M Leffman SEC Sudbury S Brighthouse S Baines S Phillips</p>
<p>12:40</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>LUNCH</p>	
<p>11A</p> <p>13:10</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>URGENT MOTION by Councillor Sally Povolotsky</p> <p>Accepted by the Chair of the Council under CPR 2.2. (xiii):</p> <p><i>"I have decided to accept a proposed urgent motion for the Council meeting tomorrow Tuesday 10 September 2024.</i></p> <p><i>Under Council Procedure Rule 2.2. (xiii) Council will "consider any business which, by reason of special circumstances which shall be specified in the minutes, the Chair agrees should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency."</i></p>	<p>M Povolotsky SEC Gawrysiak</p>

The motion proposes to respond to a decision by the Secretary of State on 4 September 2024 to approve the Thames Water Resources Management Plan. This was announced after the agenda for this Council meeting had been published. A period of 60 days has been given for feedback which will expire before the next Council meeting on 5 November 2024.

At the Council meeting on 9 July 2024, Council passed a motion of no confidence in Thames Water and reiterated its opposition to the planned design for SESRO (South East Strategic Reservoir Option) with 29 votes in favour; none against and 13 abstentions. Council Motions in November 2021 and December 2023 opposing the SESRO plans were passed unanimously.

I believe that these reasons amount to special circumstances that justify taking this motion as a matter of urgency. I propose to take the item before Item 12 - the first Motion with Notice.”

This Council notes that on Wednesday 4th September the Secretary of State approved the Thames Water Resources Management Plan (TWRMP) despite community and council opposition, technical data concerns and damning comments from the Environment Agency.

This Council has passed many motions of concern including a vote of no confidence in Thames Water and we continue to express our concerns that the TWRMP is not fit for purpose and its schemes need independent scrutiny and review, including Waste Management, leaks and the South East Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) proposal.

This Council notes that Thames Water has 60 days to take into account feedback and we ask the Leader of the Council and the relevant Cabinet Member to urgently ensure that this Council’s voice and that of our

	<p>residents are heard and that our recommendations have been taken into account.</p> <p>We reiterate our objection to the plan on the table and continue to call for a public inquiry into the plan, and ask the Leader to request an urgent audience with the Secretary of State to ensure Oxfordshire's voice is heard.</p>	
<p>12</p> <p>13:40</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Kate Gregory</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>The Two Child limit to benefit payments was introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017 and is supported by the current Labour Government. It prevents families from claiming Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit for more than 2 children in the household.</p> <p>Council notes the recent research conducted by the End Child Poverty Coalition which has found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5 million children in the UK live in households subject to the two-child limit on benefit payments. That is roughly one-in-ten children in the UK. • In 2023/24 the two-child limit cost families up to £3,235 per child each year. • Scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty overnight, and significantly reduce the level of poverty that a further 850,000 children live in. • Scrapping the two-child limit would cost £1.3 billion, however it is estimated that child poverty costs the economy £39 billion each year. <p>In Oxfordshire 10,850 children in 3050 households are currently affected by the two-child limit to benefit payments.</p> <p>Council believes that the two-child limit is a cruel policy that should be scrapped Council resolves to:</p>	<p>M Gregory SEC Johnston</p> <p>Am Baines SEC Hicks S Pressel S Brighthouse</p> <p>S Smith S Middleton S Graham S Corkin</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister expressing Oxfordshire County Council's strong belief that the two child limit to benefit payments should be scrapped. • Ask the Leader to write to all MPs covering the Oxfordshire area, asking them to commit their public support. 	
<p>13</p> <p>14:10</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>In September 2023, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission declared their judgment post inspection that the Local Area Partnership (LAP) had multiple systemic failures.</p> <p>Despite the Priority Action Plan (PAP), the Council is failing to meaningfully engage with and capture the voice of the user, our young people.</p> <p>Council calls on Cabinet to consider;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meaningfully involving young people and youth organisations throughout all policy-making processes within SEND improvement and the PAP. Co-management and co-creation structures are the best way to ensure direct participation. 2. Any consultations or engagement with young people by this council must have a visible public follow-up to the outcomes. 3. All Council policies and frameworks that affect young people, must include an impact assessment, and ensure there are mitigation measures in place for those youth groups that might be negatively impacted by a new policy or framework. 	<p>M Povolotsky SEC</p> <p>Am Reeves SEC Corkin</p> <p>S Gregory S Howson S Brighthouse</p>

	<p>4. Ensuring all future events, in person/online, run by or funded by OCC, especially those related to the PAP, LAP, and SEND improvement, are open to all young people with the attendance of their parent or carer.</p> <p>5. Launching a rapid task force for the voice of the young person and SEND users, and task them to create a framework for a Youth Forum within 3 months of this meeting date.</p> <p>6. The leader to appoint a SEND Champion to enable seldom heard voices in the SEND community to feed into SEND improvement and services, and that person to sit on the SEND Improvement board.</p> <p>Note: The motion, if passed, would constitute the exercise of an executive function in which case it will be referred to the Cabinet together with any advice the Council may wish to give, in accordance with Rule 13.5.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution.</p>	
<p>14</p> <p>14:40</p> <p>30 mins</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>This Council deplores the government's decision to cut Winter Fuel Payments (WFPs). Age UK estimates that the government's changes to WFPs could hit 2 million people across the country, who badly need the money to stay warm this winter.</p> <p>This Council resolves to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request Cabinet to launch a countywide awareness campaign working with our City and District Councils, local NHS partners, and charitable, civic and religious groups, to encourage elderly residents who are eligible for means-tested benefits such as Pension Credit to register and claim them to ensure 	<p>M Reeves SEC Walker</p> <p>Am A Levy SEC Ley</p> <p>Am B Baines SEC O'Connor S Pressel S Brighthouse</p> <p>S Corkin S Field-Johnson</p>

	<p>that they continue to receive WFPs this Winter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the government’s precipitous decision to means-test WFPs without public consultation and asking HM Treasury to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who are eligible for, but who do not – or cannot – claim, other benefits under current thresholds are protected from fuel poverty. • Request that the Cabinet reprioritises monies within the Council’s budget for 2024/5 held within the Budget Priority Reserve and/or within other relevant contingency funds, with a view to establishing an Oxfordshire Winter Fuel Payment Protection Fund, akin to the Oxfordshire Resident Support Scheme, to ensure that pensioners who are in genuine hardship, but who are not eligible for other government support, are helped through the Winter. <p>Note: The motion, if passed, would constitute the exercise of an executive function in which case it will be referred to the Cabinet together with any advice the Council may wish to give, in accordance with Rule 13.5.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution.</p>	
<p>15</p> <p>15:10</p> <p>25 mins</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Mark Cherry</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</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, 	<p>M Cherry SEC Baines S Johnston S Middleton S Enright</p>

	<p>especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due. • Support Fair Tax Week events in the area, and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses that 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> <p>Note: The motion, if passed, would constitute the exercise of an executive function in which case it will be referred to the Cabinet together with any advice the Council may wish to give, in accordance with Rule 13.5.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution.</p>	
<p>16</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>In December Oxfordshire County Council removed 7 beds from the Chiltern care home. These beds were removed without any consultation with the GP's who run them,</p>	<p>M Gawrysiak SEC Povolotsky</p> <p>Am Reeves SEC</p> <p>S Leffman S Ley S O'Connor</p>

	<p>Henley Town Council and the community of South Oxfordshire and Henley. This lack of consultation by the Council is unacceptable.</p> <p>These beds were originally provided as NHS beds.</p> <p>Following FOI requests to the Integrated Care Board Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire Berkshire West (ICB BOB) and the Council we have firmly established that these beds are NHS Beds funded by ICB, the Council and Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and cannot be closed without consultation.</p> <p>Dr Broughton interim Chief Executive of the ICB BOB states 28th February 2024 “The beds have not ‘lost NHS funding’, “The beds continued to be overseen by the Oxford University Hospital Hub team.”</p> <p>These beds are NHS beds which cannot be removed without consultation.</p> <p>This Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deplores the removal without consultation. 2. Believes these beds which serve a population of 140,000 of South Oxfordshire should be reinstated. <p>This Council requests that Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Asks partners to seek to reinstate the 7 Chiltern Court Beds serving South Oxfordshire. 4. Conduct a consultation if they still wish to remove the beds. <p>Note: The motion, if passed, would constitute the exercise of an executive function in which case it will be referred to the Cabinet together with any advice the Council may wish to give, in accordance with Rule 13.5.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution.</p>	S Lygo
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<p>17</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Pete Sudbury</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>In 2023, this Council unanimously agreed a motion committing to have due regard to the needs of future generations whilst meeting the needs of today.</p> <p>We recognise that we are currently failing that by adding to accumulated damages from legacy climate pollution, which already vastly exceeds safe limits. That overshoot has doubled in the last 15 years.</p> <p>We note:</p> <p>"Baked in" economic damages of close to 20% of global GDP by 2050.</p> <p>Reputable scientific/ energy industry bodies recognise the need for "negative emissions"; removing CO2 from the atmosphere, scaling to multiple billions of tonnes annually from the 2030s and we are alarmed at the lack of credible plans to build up the required technologies to the level of sequestration required, partly due to lack of current demand.</p> <p>We also regret unavoidable negative impacts on future generations' wellbeing from the requirement to finance this removal of our waste. We agree it is unacceptable to leave our children and grandchildren with potentially an impossible, unaffordable task to avoid a ghastly future.</p> <p>We take our responsibility to future generations seriously and therefore request Cabinet to commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting local R&D and commercialisation of emerging negative emission technologies (NETs). • Going beyond net zero, into negative emissions on our own account, at the 	<p>M Sudbury SEC Hicks Smith Middleton</p>
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	<p>earliest reasonable opportunity, in ways that have local environmental/ economic benefit and/or contribute to scaling up NETs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with our partners, suppliers and our networks to build a significant level of "demand pull", further stimulating the growth of NET supply chains. <p>Note: The motion, if passed, would constitute the exercise of an executive function in which case it will be referred to the Cabinet together with any advice the Council may wish to give, in accordance with Rule 13.5.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution.</p>	
<p>18</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Ian Middleton</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>In 2018 this Council passed a motion stating that it was opposed to the licensing of a badger cull in Oxfordshire.</p> <p>When DEFRA announced that badger culling would be phased out by 2025, many people believed that the cull had ended. Sadly, culling in Oxfordshire intensified, seemingly with the intent of shooting as many badgers as possible before the deadline. Over 50% of the county is in the killing zones.</p> <p>A new DEFRA policy now allows epidemiological culling or 'epi-culling', which involves killing up to 100% of badgers across a large area in response to a new cluster of herd breakdowns. Epi-Culling was first introduced in Cumbria, and has been adopted on a trial basis in parts of England over the past five years. Oxfordshire is now being considered by DEFRA for future epi-culling programmes.</p> <p>A recent scientific report shows that epi-culling is ineffective as a control measure. However, DEFRA, Animal and Public Health Agenda, the bTB Hub/NFU and British Cattle</p>	<p>M Middleton SEC Sudbury</p> <p>Am A Middleton SEC Sudbury (amending own motion)</p> <p>Am B Baines SEC</p> <p>S Johnston</p>

	<p>Veterinary Association, continue to advocate its use.</p> <p>This Council therefore :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Re-affirms our opposition to badger culling and condemns the introduction of epidemiological culling which has been shown to be an ineffective control measure for bTB. 2. Asks the Cabinet to consider a specific policy that badger culling will not be permitted on Council owned land. 3. Requests that the Leader writes to DEFRA making clear our continued opposition to the cull and any extension of it in size and scope, especially with regard to epidemiological culling. <p>Note: The motion, if passed, would constitute the exercise of an executive function in which case it will be referred to the Cabinet together with any advice the Council may wish to give, in accordance with Rule 13.5.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution.</p>	
<p>19</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Sally Povolotsky</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Council notes it's been 12 months since Ofsted SEND report which resulted in identification of widespread and/or systemic failings leading to significant concerns.</p> <p>Council notes the undue stress and costs for families to take cases of education needs for SEND children to tribunal.</p> <p>People Scrutiny in October 2023, heard that no tribunal would be sanctioned without a director's approval, yet the number of parents appealing to SEND tribunal is at a record high.</p> <p>Council recognises that tribunals often put families through extreme financial and mental strain, and that working together in a trauma-</p>	<p>M Povolotsky SEC Gregory Howson Leffman</p>

	<p>informed, restorative and truly co-produced way, will help this county's young people achieve better outcomes.</p> <p>Council notes that the appointment of a SEND cabinet member has been ineffective on improving the county wide provision and the role should be reviewed urgently by the leader of this council.</p> <p>Council recognises that unmet need is a combination of lack of provision and the previous government's "mainstream" agenda.</p> <p>Council asks the Cabinet to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. work towards better decisions actioned early on in cases so that families don't need the tribunal service to redress the unlawful practice. 2. form a rapid task force to work with officers to investigate tribunal case numbers and seek to develop a better solution between this council and SEND families in Oxfordshire. 3. explore the expansion of EOTAS and alternative provision for neurodivergent children unable to attend school, especially whilst the SEND provision undergoes enhancements and service growth in the county. <p>Note: The motion, if passed, would constitute the exercise of an executive function in which case it will be referred to the Cabinet together with any advice the Council may wish to give, in accordance with Rule 13.5.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution.</p>	
<p>20</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Charlie Hicks</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>Council notes the success of bus franchising in Greater Manchester, where, since bringing buses back into public control, bus use is higher and bus services are more reliable.</p>	<p>M Hicks SEC Leffman Gant</p>

Subject to the outcome of the feasibility study, Council requests Cabinet to bring buses back into public control in Oxfordshire (through bus franchising) and to create an accessible and integrated transport network for Oxfordshire.

To enable the development of an accessible and integrated transport network, Council asks the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for MHCLG asking for the greatest possible devolution of transport and spatial planning powers as part of the devolution deal.

Note: The motion, if passed, would constitute the exercise of an executive function in which case it will be referred to the Cabinet together with any advice the Council may wish to give, in accordance with Rule 13.5.1 (i) of the Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution.