

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING OF COUNCIL – 10 DECEMBER 2024

SCHEDULE OF BUSINESS

ITEM/TIME	ITEM	PROPOSALS (M = Motion; SEC = Second; Am = Amendment S = Statement; Q = Question; REC = Recommendation to be determined)
1 10:30	Minutes To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2024 (CC1) and to receive information arising from them.	
2	Apologies for Absence	
3	Declarations of Interest	
4 10:35 5 mins	Official Communications To raise funds for the charities supported by the Chair of Council, mince pies will be available BEFORE the Council meeting for a donation. Congratulations to Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service members who raised an amazing £35,329.72 in aid of Children in Need. Well done to everyone involved. A scheme to refurbish two bridges in University Parks has won a coveted Oxford Preservation Trust Award in recognition of its historically sensitive approach. The restoration of the footbridges was completed by Milestone Infrastructure on our behalf, ensuring a safe route for walkers and cyclists while preserving the historic integrity of the bridges.	

All are welcome to attend the following events:

Oxfordshire County Council Chair's Carol Service. Hosted by Cllr Rooke and The Right Revd Gavin Collins, Bishop of Dorchester.
Monday 16th December
Venue: St Michael and All Angels Church, 26 Park Road, Abingdon OX14 1DS
Service: 6.30pm – 7.30pm
Seasonal refreshments will be served after the service.

Oxfordshire County Council Chair's Charity Gala Dinner
Friday 10th January 2025
Venue: Mercure Oxford Hawkwell House Hotel, Church Way, Iffley, Oxford OX4 4DZ
7pm for 7.30pm.

Tickets for the dinner can be purchased via bank transfer as follows:
Sort code: 30-80-12
Account number: 20391068
Reference: name of who is purchasing tickets.
Tickets £69.

The following is a list of events attended by the Chair or Vice Chair since the last Council meeting:

11 Nov Remembrance Day OCC – Chair
12 Nov St Ethelwold's Book & Bake – Chair
16 Nov Cherwell Chairman's Dinner – Chair
18 Nov Nomad AGM – Chair
20 Nov OCC Long Service Awards – Chair
21 Nov Citizens Advice Quiz Fundraiser – Chair
25 Nov Marmot Place Launch Event – Chair
26 Nov Oxon Youth Present Wrapping – Chair
27 Nov Oxford Music Youth Concert – Chair
30 Nov Big Band Concert -Parkinsons – Chair
30 Nov Mayor of Carterton's Christmas drinks reception – Cllr Nick Leverton
1 Dec Burford Civic Service - Chair

	<p>4 Dec Starter for charity fun run - Christ Church meadows, Oxford – Chair</p> <p>4 Dec turned on Christmas tree lights with staff & councillors, Council chamber, Oxford – Chair</p> <p>5 Dec Turned on Christmas tree lights at Oxford castle with OPT, then hosted a reception, Oxford – Chair</p> <p>6 Dec visit to OCC support services in Banbury – Chair</p> <p>6 Dec school assembly at St Edmund's, Abingdon. Prize award for Christmas card art, Abingdon – Chair</p> <p>7 Dec US embassy Christmas event in Chesterton – Chair</p> <p>7 Dec Festive celebration for Oxfordshire children we care for, Oxford – Vice Chair</p> <p>7 Dec Oxford Bach choir's concert, Oxford – Cllr Pressel, Past Chair</p> <p>7 Dec Mayor of Abingdon Christmas concert, Abingdon – Honorary Alderman Anne Purse & Honorary Alderman Judith Heathcoat</p> <p>Council has been notified of the passing in October of former Councillor Rita Milne who represented the Wolvercote division as a Liberal Democrat member between 1993 and 1997. She was a member of the Museum, Arts, Libraries and Leisure Committee, Oxford City Divisional Youth Committee and the Southern Arts Ltd - Executive Committee. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.</p>	
<p>5</p> <p>10:40</p> <p>5 mins</p>	<p>Appointments</p> <p>Council is requested to note the formation of a Cabinet Committee.</p> <p>At the Cabinet meeting on 19 November 2024, the Cabinet agreed to the following arrangements for the exercise of executive functions:</p> <p>The establishment of a Cabinet Committee to be known as the Shareholder Committee. The committee will operate under Constitution Part 4.3 Cabinet Committees. As agreed by Cabinet, the Membership of the Shareholder Committee shall be all members</p>	

	<p>of the Cabinet, and the agreed Terms of Reference are attached.</p> <p>Council is requested to approve the following appointments:</p> <p>Councillor Yvonne Constance to replace Councillor Felix Bloomfield on the Audit & Governance Committee.</p> <p>Councillor Yvonne Constance to replace Councillor Nigel Champken-Woods on the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.</p>	
<p>6</p> <p>10:45</p> <p>5 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>Aidan Reilly - safe walking and cycling route from Abingdon and Sutton Courtenay</p> <p>Public Address</p> <p>None</p>
<p>7.</p> <p>10:50</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"> Oxford City Councillor David Henwood Richard Parnham Bernadette Evans Matthew Webb 	<p>Cllr Gant</p> <p>Cllr Ley</p> <p>Cllr Gant</p> <p>Cllr Gant</p>
<p>8</p> <p>11:00</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"> Waine to Gant Waine to Gant Waine to Gant 	

	<p>4. Cherry to Gant</p> <p>5. Field-Johnson to Roberts</p> <p>6. Mallon to Gant</p> <p>7. Reeves to Levy</p> <p>8. Reeves to Levy</p> <p>9. Reeves to Levy</p> <p>10. Saul to Levy</p> <p>11. Middleton to Gant</p> <p>12. Middleton to Levy</p> <p>13. Snowdon to Gant</p> <p>14. Snowdon to Gant</p> <p>15. Snowdon to Gant</p>	
<p>9</p> <p>11:20</p> <p>40 mins</p>	<p>Report of the Cabinet (Pages 17-22)</p> <p>Leader (Cllr Liz Leffman) Pg 17: Item 1</p> <p>Item 2</p> <p>Deputy Leader, Climate Change, Environment & Future Generations (Cllr Pete Sudbury) Pg 18: Item 3</p> <p>Children, Education & Young People (Cllr John Howson) and SEND Improvement (Cllr Kate Gregory) Pg 18: Item 4</p> <p>Finance (Cllr Dan Levy) Pg 19: Item 5</p> <p>Item 6</p> <p>Item 7</p> <p>Infrastructure & Development Strategy (Cllr Judy Roberts) and Transport Management (Cllr Andrew Gant) Pg 20: Item 8</p>	<p>Q Pressel Q O'Connor Q Phillips</p> <p>Q Baines Q Brighthouse Q Smith Q Hannaby Q Bennett</p> <p>Q Hicks Q Pressel Q Johnston</p> <p>Q Brighthouse Q Smith</p> <p>Q Baines Q Smith</p> <p>Q Baines Q Brighthouse</p> <p>Q Baines Q Smith Q Bennett</p> <p>Q Pressel Q Hicks Q Enright</p>

	<p>Public Health, Inequalities & Community Safety (Cllr Nathan Ley) Pg 20: Item 9</p> <p>SEND Improvement (Cllr Kate Gregory) Pg 21: Item 10</p>	<p>Q Baines Q Lygo Q Hicks Q O'Connor Q Hannaby</p> <p>Q Brighthouse</p>
<p>10</p> <p>12:00</p> <p>10 mins</p>	<p>Treasury Management Mid Term Review 2024/25 (Pages 23-34)</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 in the first half of 2024/25.</p>	<p>M Levy SEC Leffman S Hicks</p>
<p>11</p> <p>12:10</p> <p>20 mins</p>	<p>Scrutiny Annual Report 2023/24 (Pages 35 - 66)</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>The Council is RECOMMENDED to</p> <p>a) Receive the Scrutiny Annual Report</p>	<p>M Reeves SEC Simpson S Pressel S Baines S Hicks S Roberts</p>
<p>12</p> <p>12:30</p> <p>10 mins</p>	<p>Appraisal Process for the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) (Pages 67 to 92)</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>The Council is RECOMMENDED to:</p> <p>a) Approve the proposed changes to the appraisal process for the Chief Executive (Head of the Paid Service) as set out by the South East Employers (SEE) review report (Annex 2).</p> <p>b) Delegate authority to the Remuneration Committee to constitute the Appraisal Panel and undertake the appraisals for the Chief Executive.</p> <p>c) Approve amendments to the Constitution to include acting as an Appraisal Panel and undertaking Chief</p>	<p>M Leffman SEC Brighthouse S Smith</p>

	Executive's appraisals to the terms of reference to Remuneration Committee at Part 5.1C and to delegate to the Director of Law and Governance and the Monitoring Officer to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution.	
13 12:40 10 mins	Financial Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations (Pages 93 to 98) Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2 <p>Council is RECOMMENDED to Approve the amendments to the Financial Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations, as recommended by the Audit and Governance Committee.</p>	M Fenton SEC Smith
12:50 40 mins	LUNCH	
14 13:30 30 mins	Motion by Councillor Eddie Reeves Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2 <p>This Council considers that the government's changes in its Autumn budget to Inheritance Tax treatment of farmland, increases to employers' National Insurance and introduction of a new fertiliser tax on key agricultural imports will have a detrimental cumulative impact on family farms across Oxfordshire.</p> <p>This Council notes with concern that these family farm taxes risk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adversely affecting local farmers' potential to employ people in Oxfordshire's rural economy; • Damaging the ability for family farmers to pass on their farms to their children; and 	M Reeves SEC Field-Johnson S Saul S Brighthouse S Cherry S Corkin S Middleton S Levy S Bennett

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making food production at competitive prices more difficult for us as a county. <p>This Council requests Cabinet to ensure that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Its own policies are as supportive of local farmers as reasonably possible; 2. The newly integrated Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership ('OxLEP') prioritises the local rural economy in its governance structure and ongoing development of its strategic plan; 3. The Cabinet Member for the Environment organises a meeting with local farmers and elected members of all political groups to listen to their concerns with a view to informing the Council's and OxLEP's ongoing policy development. <p>This Council requests the Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to ask that introduction of these family farm taxes be reconsidered for the sake of environmental protection and food security.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	
<p>15</p> <p>14:00</p> <p>40 mins</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Charlie Hicks</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>This Council agreed to set up a Citizens' Assembly on the Future of Transport in Central Oxfordshire as part of its last budget. This Council considers that it is time for such a Citizens' Assembly, focused on reducing congestion, to be established. It should happen this financial year.</p>	<p>M Hicks SEC Enright</p> <p>Am1 Reeves SEC</p> <p>Am2 Haywood SEC Bennett</p> <p>S Brighouse S Elphinstone S Edosomwan S Corkin</p>

	<p>This Council notes that its ambitious suite of traffic management measures is due to be rolled out in the very near future. These include Oxford's traffic filters and workplace parking levy, which are now largely enshrined in the Council's budget and will take place unless there is a change of administration next year.</p> <p>If all such measures go ahead, Oxfordshire motorists could be hit by £57million in fines in fines and charges, broken down as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded Zero Emissions Zone £25m; • Traffic Filters £11m; • Workplace Parking Tax £21m. <p>For clarity, the purpose of a Congestion Citizens' Assembly would be to assess the likely effectiveness of such measures, provide recommendations on existing proposals and advise as to whether other measures might be given effect after next year's local elections as supplements or substitutes for such policies, putting residents' voices at the heart of the decision-making process.</p> <p>Council requests Cabinet to establish a Congestion Citizens' Assembly of Central Oxfordshire citizens, with an advisory group to comprise elected members, local businesspeople, public sector leaders from the Council's health, education and blue light partners, civil society and faith group leaders, and academics with relevant expertise in the field.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>S Bennett S Johnston S Levy S Leffman S Middleton</p>
<p>16</p> <p>14:40</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Ian Middleton</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p>	<p>M Middleton SEC Johnston</p>

<p>10 mins</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 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 with over 50% of the county in the killing zones.</p> <p>Numerous scientific reports show that culling is ineffective as a control measure, yet DEFRA, the NFU and British Cattle Veterinary Association and others continue to advocate its use.</p> <p>While it's welcomed that the Labour government has abandoned plans to allow up to 100% of badgers to be killed in some areas, there was a hope that they would cancel the cull altogether and focus on cattle based measures, including support for farmers over improved biosecurity, and a move towards testing and vaccination.</p> <p>However it now seems likely that the government will permit the cull to continue for at least the next 5 years meaning even more badgers in Oxfordshire will be senselessly slaughtered.</p> <p>This Council therefore :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Re-affirms our opposition to badger culling which has been shown to be an ineffective control measure for Bovine tuberculosis. 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. <p><i>Note: The motion, if passed, would constitute the exercise of an executive function in which</i></p>	
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	<i>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.</i>	
<p>17</p> <p>This motion falls if item 15 is debated (same issue)</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 considered setting up a Congestion Commission as part of its last budget debate. This measure was not taken up at the time. However, this Council now considers that it is time for such a commission to be established.</p> <p>This Council notes that its ambitious suite of traffic management measures is due to be rolled out, in large measure, before the next set of elections to Oxfordshire County Council in May 2025. These include Oxford's traffic filters and workplace parking tax, which are now largely enshrined in the Council's budget and will take place unless there is a change of administration next year.</p> <p>If all such measures go ahead, Oxfordshire motorists could be hit by £57million in fines and charges over a five-year period broken down as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanded Zero Emissions Zone £25m; • Traffic Filters (Four-sector Plan) £11m; • Workplace Parking Tax £21m. <p>For clarity, the purpose of a Congestion Commission is not to water down or frustrate the administration's policies, for which there is budgetary provision. Rather, its object would be to assess the likely effectiveness of such measures and advise as to whether other measures might be given effect after next year's local elections as supplements or substitutes for such policies.</p> <p>Council requests Cabinet to establish a Congestion Commission to comprise elected members, local businesspeople, public sector</p>	<p>M Reeves SEC Bartholomew</p>

	<p>leaders from the Council's health, education and blue light partners, civil society and faith group leaders, and academics with relevant expertise in the field.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	
<p>18</p> <p>14:50</p>	<p>Motion by Councillor Brighthouse</p> <p>Movers 5 mins and speaking in debate 3 minutes, CPR 15.4.2</p> <p>This Council, being concerned about the lack of political governance in relation to Dark Skies, the plan to switch off many of the county's streetlights between 11pm - 6.30am, calls on the Cabinet to carry out a full consultation before bringing this back for decision making. Such consultation to include all county councillors alongside community groups and particularly those working with women and girls.</p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>M Brighthouse SEC Phillips</p> <p>Am Reeves SEC</p> <p>S Fawcett S Smith</p>