

# Council Agenda



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## Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday 23 February 2011 at 7pm  
Guildhall, Abingdon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Reed".

Margaret Reed  
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

A large print version of this agenda is available. In addition any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement.

Please note that this meeting will be held in a wheelchair accessible venue. If you would like to attend and have any special access requirements, please let the Democratic Services Officers know beforehand and they will do their very best to meet your requirements.

Members are reminded of the provisions contained in the code of conduct adopted on 30 September 2007 and standing order 34 regarding the declaration of personal and prejudicial interests.

Note: please remember to sign the attendance register.

# Agenda

## Open to the Public including the Press

### Map and vision

(Page 10)

A map showing the location of the venue for this meeting is attached. A link to information about nearby car parking is

[http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/transport/car\\_parking/default.asp](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/transport/car_parking/default.asp)

The council's vision is to build and safeguard a fair, open and compassionate community.

### 1. Prayers

### 2. Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence.

### 3. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the council minutes of the two meetings held on 8 December 2010 (previously published).

### 4. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of personal or personal and prejudicial interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

### 5. Urgent business and chair's announcements

To receive notification of any matters which the chair determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the chair.

### 6. Statements, petitions, and questions from the public relating to matters affecting Council

Any statements, petitions, and questions from the public under standing order 32 will be made or presented at the meeting.

## **7. Urgent business**

Any non-exempt urgent business will be considered at this point in the meeting.

## **8. Petitions under standing order No.13**

To receive petitions from members of the council under standing order 13 (if any).

## **9. Questions under standing order 12**

To receive questions from members of the council under standing order 12 as follows:

- (1) Councillor Peter Saunders to Councillor Jenny Hannaby

"During the severe weather conditions in December, why is that villages in the Vale were so poorly served with regards to the collection of rubbish?"

- (2) Councillor Robert Sharp to Councillor Richard Webber

"Is the reinstatement of the community grants budget this year, after last year's cut of £100,000, and before the reduction in grants of £20,000 next year in any way connected with the date of the district council elections?"

## **10. Recommendations from the Executive and committees**

To consider the recommendations from the Executive and committees as set out below:

### **AG. Audit and Governance Committee**

12 January 2011

The Audit and Governance Committee considered the treasury management and investment strategy and made recommendations to the Executive for forwarding on to the Council – see Ex. (5) below.

### **DC. Development Control Committee**

26 January 2011

### **Ex. Executive**

7 January 2011

31 January 2011

11 February 2011

**(1) Community grants**

The Executive, at its meeting on 7 January 2011, considered report 85/10 on the recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee for the awarding of community grants. The Executive agreed the committee's recommendation to amend the existing delegation to allow for a designated officer in consultation with the Chair of the relevant area committee (or Executive) to determine grant applications up to £1,000 (existing delegation is £500).

The recommendation is included in the schedule of constitution amendments set out in agenda item 17.

**(2) Guildhall, Abingdon**

The Executive, at its meeting on 31 January 2011, considered report 98/10 on the future of the Guildhall in Abingdon.

**The confidential report of the Head of Economy, Leisure and Property, considered by the Executive on 31 January 2011, was circulated to all councillors with the Executive agenda. Please bring this report to the meeting.**

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

To agree that as part of its budget-making process a capital sum of £1,200,000 is added to the 2011/12 capital programme and to allow a capital payment of the same amount to Abingdon Town Council on 1 April 2011 following completion of the necessary agreements.

**(3) Joint Environmental Trusts**

The Executive, at its meeting on 11 February 2011, considered report 99/10 on the future working arrangements of the Joint Environmental Trusts.

**The report of the Head of Planning, considered by the Executive on 11 February 2011, was circulated to all councillors with the Executive agenda. Please bring this report to the meeting.**

**At its meeting the Executive resolved to close the JET bank accounts and offer any uncommitted JET funds to the relevant parish/town council for environmental improvements.**

**RECOMMENDATION to Council**

To wind up the council's joint committees (the Joint Environmental Trusts) for Abingdon, Faringdon, Grove and Wantage.

**(4) Treasury management monitoring mid year report 2010/11**

The Executive, at its meeting on 11 February 2011, considered report 100/10 on the treasury activities for the first six months of 2010/11.

**The report of the Head of Finance, considered by the Executive on 11 February 2011, was circulated to all councillors with the Executive agenda. Please bring this report to the meeting.**

**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

To note that the council's treasury management activities in the first half of 2010/11 are within the treasury management strategy and policy.

**(5) Treasury management and investment strategy**

The Executive, at its meeting on 11 February, considered report 101/10 that reviewed the treasury management and investment strategy. The Executive considered recommendations from the Audit and Governance Committee on the wording of the investment counterparty selection criteria relating to 'Banks 4'.

**The report of the Head of Finance, considered by the Executive on 11 February 2011, was circulated to all councillors with the Executive agenda. Please bring this report to the meeting.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL to approve:**

- (a) the treasury management strategy 2011/12 to 2013/14, including the following wording in the investment counterparty selection criteria:
  - Banks 4 – The council's own banker for transactional purposes if the bank falls below the criteria, although in this case balances will be minimised in both monetary size and time.
- (b) the treasury prudential indicators contained in paragraph 40 of the strategy;
- (c) the authorised limit Prudential Indicator, as shown in paragraph 6 of the strategy; and
- (d) the investment strategy 2011/12 contained in the treasury management strategy and the detailed criteria in Annex A1.

**(6) Ongoing provision of concessionary fares services**

The Executive, at its meeting on 11 February, considered report 102/10 on the ongoing provision of concessionary fares services.

**The report of the Head of Finance, considered by the Executive on 11 February 2011, was circulated to all councillors with the Executive agenda. Please bring this report to the meeting.**

**At its meeting the Executive agreed, subject to the Council agreeing (a) below, to extend and award contracts to suppliers to enable the services to be delivered.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL to:**

- (a) approve entering into an agency agreement on a full costs recovery basis to provide the customer element of the concessionary fares service on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council for the 2011/12 financial year;
- (b) authorise the chief finance officer to negotiate the detail of the agency agreement;

**(7) Budget 2011/12 and the medium term financial plan to 2015/16**

The Executive, at its meeting on 11 February 2011, considered report 104/10 of the Head of Finance.

**The Council is asked to note the recommendations below and debate these under the budget item (item 12) later in the meeting.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL to:**

- (a) set the revenue budget for 2011/12 at £11,393,150, as set out in appendix 1 to report 104/10;
- (b) approve the capital programme for 2011/12 to 2015/16, as set out in appendix 5 to the report, together with the capital growth bids set out in appendix 6;
- (c) set the council's Prudential Limits as listed in appendix 7;
- (d) approve the medium term financial plan to 2015/16 as set out in appendix 2;

**Sc. Scrutiny Committee**

16 December 2010  
20 January 2011  
22 February 2011

**Any recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 22 February 2011 will appear on the Council's procedural notes tabled before the meeting.**

## **St. Standards Committee**

12 January 2011

### **11. Local Government Act 1972 - restriction on voting on Council Tax**

To remind councillors that they are not entitled to vote at any meeting on any issue affecting the level or administration of the council tax if they are over two months in arrears with their council tax payments.

Where such circumstances apply, councillors are under a statutory obligation to disclose the restriction placed on them and refrain from voting at the relevant meeting. Failure to comply is a criminal offence, which on conviction could lead to a substantial fine.

### **12. Setting the 2011/12 district budget**

To approve the 2011/12 budget. The Executive's budget proposals will be circulated as a separate document.

Council's attention is drawn to the Chief Finance Officer's report on the robustness of the budget estimates and the adequacy of the reserves.

### **13. Council Tax 2011/12**

To set the Council Tax for the year commencing on 1 April 2011 and ending on 31 March 2012 by adopting the formal resolution under Section 30 of the Local Government Act 1992, as set out in Appendix 8 attached to the Executive's budget proposals.

### **14. Sexual entertainment venues**

At its meeting on 8 December 2010, Council agreed to adopt Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009, so that the provisions for the control of sexual entertainment venues shall apply. Council resolved that the new powers should take effect from 1 March 2011. In order to allow for the publication of the required legal notices, Council is asked to agree that the powers take effect instead on 1 April 2011. All the other resolutions remain unchanged.

### **Recommendation**

To agree that the adoption of Schedule 3 to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended by section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 agreed by Council at its meeting on 8 December 2010 should take effect on 1 April 2011.

## **15. Review of polling districts and places - interim proposals**

(Pages 11 - 18)

To consider the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on interim changes for implementation at the forthcoming elections in May 2011 (attached).

## **16. New executive arrangements**

(Pages 19 - 23)

At its meeting on 8 December 2010 Council adopted its chosen form of executive arrangements for implementation following the May 2011 district elections. The report to Council set out the need to review the council's constitution to ensure it supports the new decision making arrangements. Attached are proposed changes to Article 4 and Article 7 of the council's constitution with deleted words marked with a strikethrough and additional words shown in bold.

**RECOMMENDATION:** to approve the amendments to the council's constitution as attached to this agenda following the May 2011 elections.

## **17. Constitution amendments**

(Pages 24 - 25)

The paper attached sets out a number of amendments to the council's constitution with an explanation for the proposed amendment.

**RECOMMENDATION:** to approve the amendments to the council's constitution attached to this agenda.

## **18. Appointment of independent members to the Standards Committee**

(Pages 26 - 27)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic services on the re-appointment of the current independent members to the Standards Committee. (attached)

## **19. Virements**

(Pages 28 - 29)

In accordance with the virement policy, all virements of £10,000 and over and virements across service areas require prior authorisation of the executive and must be reported to the council.

### **Recommendation**

To note the virements attached.



## **20. Report of the leader of the council**

### **(1) Urgent executive decisions**

In accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rules, an executive decision can be taken as a matter of urgency, if any delay by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the council's or the public's interest. Treating the decision as a matter of urgency must be agreed by the chairman of the Scrutiny Committee and must be reported to the next meeting of the council, together with the reasons for urgency.

To receive any details of urgent executive decisions taken since the last ordinary meeting of the council, (if any).

### **(2) Delegation of executive functions**

To receive details of any changes to the executive scheme of delegation.

### **(3) Matters affecting the authority arising from meetings of joint committees, partnerships and other meetings**

To receive the report of the leader (if any).

## **21. Notices of motion under standing order 11**

To receive notices of motion under standing order 11:

- (1) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Tony de Vere, seconded by Councillor Alison Rooke:

"That council requests the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to undertake a periodic electoral review of the district with a view to reducing the number of councillors from the current 51 to 34, such reduction to reflect the efficient working practices in place at the council and to achieve a significant saving in the costs of democracy."

- (2) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Matthew Barber, seconded by Councillor John Morgan:

"This Council instructs the Executive to investigate ways in which this Authority can support the Sweatbox youth centre?"

## **Exempt information under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972**

None