

Council Agenda



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Date: 12 February 2013
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Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday 20 February 2013 at 7.00pm
Guildhall, Abingdon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Reed', is written in a cursive style.

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.

Note: please remember to sign the attendance register.

Agenda

Open to the Public including the Press

Map and vision

(Page 8)

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

The council's vision is to take care of your interests across the Vale with enterprise, energy and efficiency.

1. Apologies for absence

To receive apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

(Pages 9 - 23)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2012 (previously published and attached).

3. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

4. Chairman's announcements

To receive any announcements from the chairman.

5. 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.

6. Urgent business

To receive notification of any matters which the chairman determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent.

7. Petitions under standing order No.13

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

8. Questions under standing order 12

To receive questions from members of the council under standing order 12.

1. Question from Councillor Jenny Hannaby to Councillor Reg Waite, Cabinet member for Waste Services:

Will the cabinet member agree with me the loss of the Vale's position as Top Recycling Council in the country is most regrettable?

2. Question from Councillor Jim Halliday to Councillor Matthew Barber, Cabinet member for Grants:

On 5 October 2012 all Councillors were sent details of the Capital Grant bids submitted by local organisations. In December the four area committees considered the majority of the bids and decided what if any grant should be awarded. However, a number of applications were excluded from the area committee agendas as apparently they were considered to be Vale-wide - for example: Age UK Oxfordshire who bid for £2714, Oxfordshire Association for the Blind who bid for £570, and the Oxfordshire Chinese Community Advice Centre who bid for £5000.

Please could the Leader list all such Vale-wide applications and for each state whether a decision has been made whether to award a grant, who made the decision, and the amount awarded?

3. Question from Councillor Tony de Vere to Councillor Matthew Barber, Cabinet member for Grants:

How many festival grant applications were received in 2012/13 and what was the total sum requested?

4. Question from Councillor Tony de Vere to Councillor Matthew Barber, Cabinet member for Finance:

What allowance for inflation have you made in the budget in each of the years 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17?

5. Question from Councillor Ron Mansfield to Councillor Roger Cox, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services:

How much money was spent helping low-income families procure the services of pest-control companies in 2011/12 and 2012/13?

6. Question from Councillor Jane Hanna to Councillor Matthew Barber, Cabinet Member for Finance:

Will you undertake to continue to make payments to Parish and Town Councils in 2014/15 and beyond to offset the effects of the new Council tax reduction scheme?

7. Question from Councillor Tony de Vere to Councillor Reg Waite, Cabinet member for Waste Services:

Would the Cabinet Member care to comment on the poor condition of a number of Bring Sites around the Vale?

8. Question from Councillor Jerry Paterson to councillor Mike Murray, Cabinet member for planning policy (including the local Plan):

In what way is the list of strategic housing sites in paragraph 13 of agenda item 11 of 8 February Cabinet agenda, set out in italics below, different to that consulted on by the council over two years ago?

The allocation of the following strategic housing sites (which are in addition to those already identified in the current Local Plan, such as Grove Airfield) and details of the development they will accommodate, and infrastructure and services that will be sought

- *Valley Park, Harwell (2,150 homes)*
- *Crab Hill, north of Wantage and east of Grove (1,500 homes)*
- *Monk's Farm, north of Grove (750 homes)*
- *Land on the northern part of Harwell Oxford Campus (400 homes) and*
- *Land on the south side of Park Road, Faringdon (350 homes)*

9. Recommendations from the Cabinet and committees

(Pages 24 - 29)

To consider recommendations from Cabinet and committees since the Council meeting held in December 2012.

(1) Treasury management mid-year monitoring report 2012/13

The Cabinet, at its meeting on 8 February 2013, considered the treasury management mid-year monitoring report of the head of finance.

The report of the Head of Finance, considered by the Cabinet on 8 February 2013, was circulated to all councillors. Please bring this report to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: to note that Cabinet is satisfied that the council's treasury activities are being carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy.

(2) Treasury management and investment strategy 2013/14

The Cabinet, at its meeting on 8 February 2013, considered the report of the head of finance on the approval of the treasury management strategy, the annual investment strategy and the prudential indicators.

The report of the Head of Finance, considered by the Cabinet on 8 February 2013, was circulated to all councillors. Please bring this report to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL to approve:

- (a) approve the treasury management strategy 2013/14 as set out in Appendix A to the head of finance's report, subject to Cabinet keeping the strategy under review;
- (b) approve the prudential indicators and limits for 2013/14 to 2015/16 as set out in table 2, appendix A to the report;
- (c) approve the annual investment strategy 2013/14 set out in appendix A to the report and the lending criteria detailed in table 5.

(3) Budget 2013/14

The setting of the budget is covered in agenda item 10.

(4) Skin piercing

General Licensing Committee, at its meeting on 21 January 2013, considered a report on the adoption of a new single consolidated set of byelaws, produced by the department of health, to regulate acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis.

A copy of the byelaws agreed for recommendation to Council is **attached**.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: to

- (a) make new model byelaws under Sections 14 and 15 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended by the Local Government Act 2003) for the regulation of acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin-colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis (and revoke existing byelaws); and
- (b) authorise the head of legal and democratic services to take all steps necessary to obtain confirmation of the byelaws from the Secretary of State for Health.

10. Budget 2013/14

The Cabinet, at its meeting on 8 February 2013, considered a report on the council's revenue budget 2013/14, medium term financial plan to 2017/18 and capital programme to 2017/18.

The Cabinet's budget proposal is bound separately and will follow this agenda (blue pages refer).

The Scrutiny Committee will consider this item at its meeting on 14 February 2013. Any

alternative recommendation will be circulated prior to the Council meeting.

11. Council tax 2013/14

To consider the report of the Head of Finance regarding the setting of the council tax for the 2013/14 financial year (**report to follow**).

12. Designating the council's section 151 chief financial officer (Pages 30 - 32)

To consider the report of the strategic director that recommends the designation of the shared head of finance as the section 151 officer for both councils from 4 April 2013 (report **attached**).

13. Pay policy statement 2013/14 (Pages 33 - 37)

To consider the report of the Head of HR, IT and Customer Services on the adoption of a pay policy statement to meet the requirements of the Localism Act (report attached).

14. 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).

15. Notices of motion under standing order 11

To receive the following notice of motion under standing order 11.

Motion to be proposed by Councillor Jenny Hannaby, seconder to be notified:

This Council congratulates officers and contractors responsible for waste and ground maintenance for their excellent efforts in keeping our paths and car parks as safe as possible throughout the recent bad weather.

This Council also congratulates all officers responsible for alleviating the threat of flooding to vulnerable homes by delivering sand bags and other flood protection equipment.

This Council acknowledges the efforts made by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to keep main roads open during the January snow fall.

However, this council regrets that OCC did not carry out their full statutory duties and keep all roads treated with the resulting impact on the Vale's waste collection service, which were severely disrupted. Council requests the leader to write to the OCC Cabinet member responsible for Highways requesting a review on road clearing policies before the next bout of bad weather.

Exempt information under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

None