

Council Agenda



Contact: Steven Corrigan, Democratic Services Manager
Telephone number 01235 540306
Email: steven.corrigan@southandvale.gov.uk
Date: 10 February 2015
Website: www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday, 18 February 2015 at 7.00 pm
The Ridgeway (main hall first floor), The Beacon, (formerly Wantage Civic Hall), Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M Reed'.

Margaret Reed
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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Agenda

Open to the public including the press

Council's vision

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

To adopt and sign as a correct record the council minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2014.

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 the 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 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 Jeanette Halliday to Councillor Matthew Barber, Cabinet Member for Legal and Democratic Services

As each individual elector has to register to vote annually in future, could the elections office send their current letter telling people they have successfully registered, with postal voting information on the back of the letter, to voters who are not registered for a postal vote, and a new letter to voters registered for a postal vote saying that their application has been successful and they are still registered for their postal vote WITHOUT the postal voting information on the back of this letter?

2. Question from Councillor Judy Roberts to Councillor Matthew Barber, Cabinet Member for Legal and Democratic Services

Would the leader be in agreement that a written response to all petitions is provided by the officer/committee to all councillors and the petition presenter?

3. Question from Councillor Pat Lonergan to Councillor Mike Murray, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy

Notwithstanding the procedure for housing site selection outlined last month by the Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, do you expect the people of Abingdon to believe that there were not plenty of sites outside the Oxford Green Belt which could have been included in the list of strategic sites, had there been the will, and that the 200-house limit was a technical consideration, rather than an administrative convenience?

4. Question from Councillor Tony de Vere to Councillor Elaine Ware, Cabinet Member for Economy Leisure and Property

Please can you tell me when you or any other member of the cabinet last met representatives of Scottish Widows to discuss the Charter area?

5. Question from Councillor Catherine Webber to Councillor Elaine Ware, Cabinet Member for Economy, Leisure and Property

Has the Cabinet member modified her stated position in a written answer to question asked in Council two years ago that air quality considerations should not be allowed to impede economic growth?

6. Question from Councillor Jim Halliday to Councillor Mike Murray, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy

Assuming that he looked into a variety of ways of publishing information about the local plan, please could he give the estimated cost of printing an 8 page newspaper and distributing it to 59,499 residential properties?

7. Question from Councillor Debby Hallett to Councillor Elaine Ware, Cabinet Member for Economy Leisure and Property

Last year, Councillor Ware told us wifi in Botley was operational. However, I've visited the West Way Shopping Centre several times since the New Year, and could find no Vale wifi network. When will people in the West Way Shopping Centre in Botley be able to access the free wifi provided by the Vale?

8. Question from Councillor Jenny Hannaby to Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council

Can Matthew Barber confirm that local members and Grove Parish Council had seen the final 106 agreements being signed off by landowners and were they content?

9. Question from Councillor Richard Webber to Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council

Does the Leader intend to follow the example set by Councillor Hudspeth of Oxfordshire County Council, and abolish the post of chief executive?

10. Question from Councillor Jenny Hannaby to Councillor Elaine Ware, Cabinet Member for Economy, Leisure and Property

Please can she confirm that local Vale councillors have been, and will be, invited to meetings of the recently-formed Steering Group for the Beacon?

9. Community infrastructure levy - draft charging schedule

Prior to the Council meeting Councillor Mike Murray, Cabinet member for planning policy, will take an individual Cabinet member decision on the consultation comments received on the Community Infrastructure Levy Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule and recommend changes to the Draft Charging Schedule for public consultation and to submit to the Secretary of State for formal examination.

Councillor Murray's recommendations will be circulated prior to the meeting.

10. Treasury management mid-year monitoring report 2014/15

Cabinet, at its meeting on 6 February 2015, 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 6 February 2015, was circulated to all councillors. Hard copies are available on request.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:

1. to note the treasury management mid-year monitoring report 2014/15, and
2. to note that Cabinet is satisfied that the treasury activities are carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy.

11. Treasury management and investment strategy 2014/15

Cabinet, at its meeting on 6 February 2015, considered the report of the head of finance on the treasury management strategy, the annual investment strategy and the prudential indicators.

The report of the head of finance, considered by the Cabinet on 6 February 2015, was circulated to all councillors. Hard copies are available on request.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL to:

1. approve the treasury management strategy 2015/16 as set out in appendix A to the head of finance's report;

2. approve the prudential indicators and limits for 2015/16 to 2017/18 as set out in table 2, appendix A to the report;
3. approve the annual investment strategy 2015/16 set out in appendix A to the report and the lending criteria detailed in table 5.

12. Revenue budget 2015/16 and capital programme to 2019/20

(Pages 8 - 48)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 6 February 2015, considered the report of the head of finance on the draft revenue budget 2015/16, and the capital programme to 2019/20.

The report of the head of finance, considered by the Cabinet on 6 February 2015, is attached.

Cabinet supported the draft budget, and emphasised that should there be no change to the new homes bonus scheme then the leader of the council might wish to use an element of the remaining new homes bonus balance to fund infrastructure projects.

Cabinet made the following amendments to the draft budget:

- In appendix B item 5 under Economy, Leisure and Property, the title of the bid should be amended to 'strategic property – additional professional support'
- In appendix D.2 item 1 under Corporate Management Team, the title of the bid should read 'South Hinksey rail crossing' and 'South Hinksey' should replace 'North Hinksey' in the summary text
- In appendix D.2 item 2 under HR, IT and Technical Services, the title of the bid should read 'Abingdon flood defences' and the summary text should be amended to 'Funding of Abingdon flood defences including St Helen's Mill and River Ock retention scheme'

Revised appendices B and D2 reflecting the above changes are attached.

Cabinet agreed that the leader of the council could make minor adjustments to the draft budget proposals and prudential indicators, in conjunction with the head of finance, should they prove necessary following the publication of the final Local Government settlement and prior to its submission to Council on 18 February 2015.

RESOLVED to recommend Council that it:

- (a) sets the revenue budget for 2015/16 as set out in the appendix A.1 to the head of finance's report;
- (b) approves the capital programme for 2015/16 to 2019/20 as set out in appendix D.1 to the head of finance's report, together with the capital growth bids set out in appendix D.2 of the head of finance's report;
- (c) sets the council's prudential limits as listed in appendix E to the head of finance's report;
- (d) approves the medium term financial plan to 2019/20 as set out in appendix F.1 to the head of finance's report.

13. Council tax 2015/16

To consider the report of the head of finance regarding the setting of the council tax for the 2015/16 financial year (**report to follow**).

14. Pay policy statement 2015/16

(Pages 49 - 52)

To consider the report of the head of HR, IT and technical services on the adoption of a pay policy statement to meet the requirements of the Localism Act (**report attached**).

15. Post fire update

The chief executive to provide an update on developments since the fire at the Crowmarsh offices.

16. Report of the leader of the council

(1) Urgent cabinet decisions

In accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rules, a cabinet 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.

Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council will report that on 23 December 2014 he took a decision to approve a £22,500 virement from contingency in 2014/15 to provide additional funding for the delivery of the broadband project. The chairman of the scrutiny committee agreed to waive call-in because any delay could delay the project and prejudice both the council's and the public's interests.

He will report that on 24 December 2014 Councillor Mike Murray, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, took a decision that the Drayton Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum. The chairman of the scrutiny committee agreed to waive call-in because any delay could impact on the referendum date and prejudice both the council's and the public's interests.

(2) Delegation of cabinet functions

To receive details of any changes to the leader's 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).

17. Notices of motion under standing order 11

To receive notices of motion under standing order 11.

- (1) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Jim Halliday, seconded by Councillor Pat Lonergan:

Council requests that the Chief Executive write to the County Council highlighting Vale Council's continued concern about the Wootton Road/Dunmore Road/Copenhagen Drive roundabout: Subsequent to 16 July 2014 (when Council last debated the matter), the County Council has carried out changes to the road markings and undertaken to carry out further monitoring. However, the latest changes appear not to have reduced driver confusion, but have resulted in longer queues at peak times. Council requests the County Council to carry out a thorough review of the roundabout and its approach roads.

- (2) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Jeanette Halliday, seconded by Councillor Jim Halliday:

Council notes that despite Vale Council's formal objection, the Cabinet of Oxfordshire County Council has recently agreed that the pedestrian crossing on Marcham Road, Abingdon, should be re-sited and an additional pedestrian crossing installed on Ock Street, and that the impact of the changes on traffic flow and pedestrian safety should be monitored. Recognising that one of this Council's main concerns was the possible impact on air quality in the vicinity, Council requests that appropriate air quality monitoring should be installed on Ock Street, Spring Road, Marcham Road, and Drayton Road as soon as reasonably practical so that a full set of "before" and "after" measurements can be obtained.

- (3) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Bob Johnston, seconded by Councillor Jerry Patterson:

This Council calls for any full review of the Oxford Green Belt to be carried out in an open and transparent manner. It should be held in public with an independent Chairman and able to take evidence from all interested bodies, including members of the public. Once formulated any draft should be subject to an EiP (Examination in Public) followed by a final report with recommendations to be ratified by all the Councils involved.