

# Council Agenda



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Date: 7 February 2017  
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## Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday 15 February 2017 at 7.30 pm  
The Ridgeway, The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, 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

(Pages 7 - 14)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 December 2016 (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 13

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

## 8. Questions under standing order 12

To receive the following questions from councillors under standing order 12.

- A. Question from Councillor Bob Johnston to Councillor Roger Cox, Cabinet member for planning

As there is a likelihood that the Lodge Hill slip roads as defined in the Local Plan Part 1 may not have the necessary funding to go ahead, there is public concern about the impact of traffic from strategic sites on local roads. Could the Cabinet Member for Planning tell me what traffic modelling (if any) was carried out by the Vale, its consultants or third parties such as developers, in preparation for Local Plan Part 1, of the impact of traffic on the A4183 (and other local roads) from the potential development which we now refer to as the "North Abingdon Site" if the new slip roads at Lodge Hill aren't provided?

- B. Question from Councillor Bob Johnston to Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council

In October 2014, Council passed a motion that called on officers to report on how the Vale could make and support the business case for a new express train service from Bristol to Bedford, stopping at Wantage/Grove, Didcot, Oxford, Bicester and Milton Keynes. What actions and decisions have been taken to move this forward?

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

In May 2016, Council passed a motion that called for 'officers to work with Oxfordshire County Council (and other relevant local authorities, Network Rail and Great Western Railway) to produce a business case for an express rail link from Bristol to Milton Keynes via a new station at Grove / Wantage. It must include new track and signalling so as not to obstruct present and future high speed services from Paddington and link with the current electrification scheme.' What actions and decisions have been taken to produce this business case?

- D. Question from Councillor Bob Johnston to Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council

In July 2015, Council passed a motion that requested the Environment Agency commission an independent review into the implications of the proposed Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme, especially relating to possible flood risks in areas of the Vale downstream of Abingdon. What actions and decisions have been taken about this?

- E. Question from Councillor Debby Hallett to Councillor Roger Cox, Cabinet member for planning

In December 2015, Council passed a motion in support of the Housing Bill, which would build starter homes, grant automatic planning permission to build on brownfield sites, sell off high value vacant council assets and use the money to build more affordable homes in the same area, and extend right to buy to housing association tenants. How many starter homes have been sold in the year since? How many automatic permissions have been given for brownfield development? How many council assets have been sold off, and how many new affordable houses have those sales funded? How many housing association tenants have exercised their right to buy?

F. Question from Councillor Emily Smith to Councillor Roger Cox, Cabinet member for planning

Could the Cabinet member for planning tell us about the timetable for the construction of the Lodge Hill slip roads?

## **9. Appointment of external auditors**

(Pages 15 - 17)

At its meeting on 23 January 2017 the Joint Audit and Governance Committee considered a report on the approach the council will follow in appointing its external auditors.

The report of the head of finance, which the Joint Audit and Governance Committee, considered on 23 January 2017, is **attached**.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

To opt in to the appointing person arrangements made by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) for the appointment of external auditors.

## **10. Treasury management mid-year monitoring 2016/17**

(Pages 18 - 29)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 February 2017, considered a monitoring report on the treasury management activities for the first six months of 2016/17 and an update on the current economic conditions with a view to the remainder of the year.

The Joint Audit and Governance Committee had considered the report at its meeting on 23 January 2017 and had not recommended any adjustments to the strategy as a result of the first six months' activities. Likewise, Cabinet concluded that the treasury management activities had operated within the agreed parameters set out in the approved treasury management strategy.

**The report of the head of finance, which Cabinet considered on 3 February 2017, is attached.**

**RECOMMENDATION:** to approve the treasury management mid-year monitoring report 2016/17.

## **11. Treasury management and investment strategy 2017/18 to 2019/20**

(Pages 30 - 57)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 February 2017, considered a report on the council's treasury management strategy (TMS) for 2017/18 to 2019/20 and set out the expected treasury operations for this period.

The Joint Audit and Governance Committee considered the report at its meeting on 23 January 2017 and had not recommended any adjustments to the strategy.

Cabinet considered that paragraph 4.1 of the property investment policy should be

amended to clarify where the council's property investments could be located. Cabinet considered that new property acquisitions for investment purposes should not normally be located in the Vale of White Horse district. Cabinet asked the head of finance to draft appropriate wording to reflect this.

Cabinet agreed to recommend Council approve the strategy as attached to the report subject to the addition of wording to cover the issue referred to in the previous paragraph.

**The report of the head of finance, which Cabinet considered on 3 February 2017, is attached.**

**RECOMMENDATION:** to approve

1. the treasury management strategy 2017/18 set out in appendix A to the head of finance's report to Cabinet on 3 February 2017, subject to amending paragraph 4.1 of the property investment policy to clarify where the council's property investments could be located;
2. the prudential indicators and limits for 2017/18 to 2019/20 as set out in table 2, appendix A to the head of finance's report to Cabinet on 3 February 2017; and
3. the annual investment strategy 2017/18 set out in appendix A (paragraphs 24 to 63) and the lending criteria detailed in table 5 to the head of finance's report to Cabinet on 3 February 2017.

## **12. Revenue budget 2017/18 and capital programme to 2021/22**

(Pages 58 - 97)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 February 2017, considered the report of the head of finance on the draft revenue budget 2017/18, and the capital programme to 2021/22.

Cabinet resolved to agree that the Cabinet member for finance, in conjunction with the head of finance, may make minor adjustments to the report and prudential indicators should they prove necessary prior to submission to Council. Any adjustments will be reported to Council.

**The report of the head of finance, considered by the Cabinet on 3 February 2017, is attached.**

**The Scrutiny Committee will consider this report at its meeting on 7 February 2017. Any views or recommendations will be reported to Council.**

**RECOMMENDATION:** to

1. set the revenue budget for 2017/18 as set out in appendix A.1 to the head of finance's report to Cabinet on 3 February 2017;
2. approve the capital programme for 2017/18 to 2021/22 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;
3. set the council's prudential limits as listed in appendix E to the head of finance's report; and

4. approve the medium term financial plan to 2021/22 as set out in appendix F.1 to the head of finance's report.

### **13. Council tax 2017/18**

To consider the report of the head of finance on the setting of the council tax for the 2017/18 financial year - report to follow.

### **14. Pay policy statement 2017/18**

(Pages 98 - 101)

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 is **attached**.

### **15. Changes to the council's constitution**

To consider the report of the monitoring officer on a proposed change to the constitution to clarify the decisions which can be taken by full council – report to follow.

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

#### **(1) Urgent cabinet decisions**

In accordance with the 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.

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

#### **(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 the following notice of motion under standing order 11.

Motion to be proposed by Councillor Debby Hallett, seconded by Councillor Bob Johnston:

This council supports the proposal for a new countywide unitary authority.