

Council Agenda



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Date: 3 October 2017
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Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday 11 October 2017 at 7.00 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 record apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

(Pages 6 - 17)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the annual meeting held on 17 May 2017 attached and the special meeting held on 29 June 2017 attached.

3. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest

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

4. Urgent business and chairman's announcements

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, and to receive any announcements from the chairman.

5. Public participation

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public that have registered to speak.

6. Temporary housing accommodation provision to 2022

(Pages 18 - 41)

Cabinet at its meeting on 4 August 2017 considered the report of the head of development and housing on a proposal to provide better temporary housing accommodation. Cabinet agreed the approach which require Council's approval to amend the capital programme allocation. The proposal includes deleting the capital budget to purchase four homes in Abingdon and instead creating a capital budget to convert the council's two existing hostels into self-contained units. This proposal would reduce the projected revenue costs by £25,000 per annum.

The report of the head of development and housing is attached.

Recommendation: to

1. delete the current capital budget provision of £920,000 for the estimated costs of purchasing four two-bedroom houses in Abingdon;
2. create a capital budget of £885,000 to convert the council's two hostels into self-contained units; and
3. note that by approving recommendation (2) above, this will result in a reduction in the revenue budget of £25,000 per annum.

7. Treasury outturn 2016/17

(Pages 42 - 64)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 6 October 2017, will consider the report of the head of finance on the outturn performance of the treasury management function for the financial year 2016/17.

The report of the head of finance, which Cabinet will consider on 6 October 2017, is **attached**. The Joint Audit and Governance Committee considered the report at its meeting on 25 September 2017. It welcomed the report and made no recommendations to Cabinet. The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors.

8. Vale of White Horse Scrutiny Committee Annual Report

(Pages 65 - 72)

To receive the Scrutiny Committee Annual Report **attached**.

9. 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).

10. Questions on notice

To receive the following questions from councillors in accordance with Council procedure rule 33.

1. Question from Councillor Catherine Webber to Councillor Roger Cox, Cabinet member for Planning.

Please can the Cabinet member for Planning tell us how many electrical car charging points have been in planning applications that were approved in the last two years? Of those, how many have been delivered? If there's a gap, please can you tell us what action Enforcement are taking to remedy it?

2. Question from Councillor Debby Hallett to Councillor Charlotte Dickson, Cabinet member for Waste.

Over the past several months, service from Biffa in my ward has been reliably poor. Repeated instances of missed service have brought in complaints from residents to me, to Biffa, to the Vale and to our local MP. In 2016, I was told the poor service in my ward was due to staff shortages. In 2017, I've been told it is due to old lorry stock. Please can the Cabinet member tell us how many complaints have been received so far this year (since 1 May 2017) in my ward of Botley and Sunningwell. What is the penalty to our contractor for such poor service? If we received such poor service from a private company, most of us would ask for our money back. How do residents apply for a refund for services paid for but not delivered?

3. Question from Councillor Catherine Webber to Councillor Elaine Ware, Cabinet member for Environmental Protection.

It was widely reported in September 2015 that nearly 200 councils in England and Wales exceeded the NO2 limits in 2013; Vale is sadly one of them. Approximately 50 Vale residents die prematurely each year due to air pollution. We've heard before that solutions are difficult and take cross-boundary cooperation. What actions are Vale taking and how is council actively working with other authorities to improve our air quality? What is Vale's current position with respect to any moral obligation to do all we can to reduce the impact of our poor air quality on the mortality rate of our residents?

4. Question from Councillor Debby Hallett to Councillor Eric Batts, Cabinet member for Facilities.

Does the Cabinet member for Facilities agree with me that the front door to our council offices building sets the tone of the districts' professionalism for people who come to call on us? Paper signs are blu-tacked up telling people the doors don't work and to close them behind you, which contradict the other signs saying 'automatic doors'. Council staff working nearby suffer by having to repeatedly get up and close the doors. This has been going on since we moved into the building. Is this Vale's responsibility or Vinci's? Please can the Cabinet member tell us when will these doors be properly functional?

5. Question from Councillor Emily Smith to Councillor Mike Murray, Cabinet member for Property.

Old Abbey House in Abingdon has been empty for some time, and concern is growing for the future of this historic building. Please can you tell council how long Old Abbey House has been vacant. In that time, how much has this council spent on maintenance, security and other costs? In that time, what offers of use has council received? What are your plans now for the sale or rent of the building?

6. Question from Councillor Judy Roberts to Councillor Elaine Ware, Cabinet member for Grants.

Children's Centres in the Vale are trying to fund themselves now that their county council funding has been cut. At our February 2017 Vale budget council meeting, the Leader of the Council said, "the centres could access the existing grant schemes for funding". But in fact, recent applications by children's centres for Vale grants have been refused. Applicants were told they didn't qualify as our current grant system cannot provide funds for services previously provided by the County Council. At that February 2017 council meeting, a motion to form a grants pot for these children's centres was voted down after the Leader assured members that our current grants system could help. Now we learn that it doesn't help, and that in fact it denies the organisations the right to apply and be considered. Please can the Cabinet member explain what has happened, and how these children's services charities can apply for Vale grants? The deadline for applications is 15 October.

11. Motions on notice

To consider motions from councillors in accordance with Council procedure rule 38.

Motion to be proposed by Councillor Bob Johnston, seconded by Councillor Jenny Hannaby.

Council requests Cabinet as part of the 2018/19 budget-setting process to bring forward to Council a new scheme for councillors' community grants, giving each member £4000 to spend as they see fit on not-for-profit community improvements in their ward.

12. Exclusion of the public

To consider whether to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business under Part 1 of Schedule 12A Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 on the grounds that:

- (i) it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and
- (ii) the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

13. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the confidential Council minutes of the special meeting held on 29 June 2017 **to follow**.