

# Council Agenda



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## Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday 13 December 2017 at 7.00 pm  
The Ridgeway, The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY

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

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# Agenda

## Open to the public including the press

### COUNCIL'S VISION

#### 1. Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence.

#### 2. Minutes

(Pages 8 - 20)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the meetings held on 27 September and 11 October 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. Petitions

At its meeting on 11 October 2017 Ms Naomi Richardson presented a petition regarding the toilets at Abbey Meadows. The [petition](#) signed by in excess of 500 people calls for "excellent, accessible loos at Abbey Meadows".

The council's Petition Scheme provides the following regarding petition debates at Council meetings:

When petitions containing more than 500 signatures are submitted, the petition organiser will be given three minutes to present the petition and the petition will then be discussed by councillors. Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting.

In response to the petition, Council may decide

- not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate;

- to refer the matter to Cabinet and decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision.

Any Council recommendation will be reported to Cabinet.

## **7. Council tax base 2018/19**

Cabinet, at its meeting on 8 December 2017, will consider a report on the council tax base for 2018/19.

The report of the head of finance, which Cabinet will consider on 8 December, was circulated to all councillors with the Cabinet agenda.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors.

## **8. Community governance reviews**

(Pages 21 - 23)

At its meeting on 23 October 2017 the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee considered a report on a suggested timetable and process for future community governance reviews. The report of the head of legal and democratic services is **attached**.

In agreeing to undertake a review every four years with changes agreed for implementation at the next scheduled elections, the committee agreed the following:

“To recommend that Council rescinds its resolution agreed on 16 July 2014 that a significant development proposal that sits adjacent to or straddles a parish boundary should automatically trigger a community governance review, such a review to take place on the inclusion of a site in a document that forms part of the approved Local Plan or when planning permission has been granted for the development of the site”.

Council is invited to consider the committee’s recommendation.

## **9. Review of the council's constitution**

(Pages 24 - 30)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic services on proposed changes to the council’s constitution – **attached**.

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

### Urgent cabinet decisions

In accordance with the scrutiny committee 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).

### Delegation of cabinet functions

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

### Matters affecting the authority arising from meetings of joint committees, partnerships and other meetings

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

## **11. Questions on notice**

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

### **A. Question from Councillor Emily Smith to Cabinet Member for environmental health, Councillor Elaine Ware**

In the 2015 Air Quality Management Action Plan the 11 district wide actions were:

- Creation of a 'low emission strategy' and 'low emission zone' feasibility study (target date 2017)
- Installation of electric vehicle recharging points
- Parking permit and pricing incentives for green vehicles (target date 2016)
- Feasibility study for freight transport consolidation centre (FCC) / freight quality partnership (target date 2016)
- Taxi licensing incentives for green vehicles (target date 2016)
- Improved use and enforcement of traffic regulation orders (target date 2016)
- Review of the council and contractors fleet
- Eco driver training (trial to be complete by 2016)
- Air quality planning guidance (target date 2015)
- Community involvement projects
- Introduce south facing slip roads to Lodge Hill interchange

Please can the Cabinet member confirm which of these actions are complete and provide an update of those which are not? What evidence do we have that each of these measures has been successful or otherwise?

### **B. Councillor Helen Pighills to Cabinet Member for housing, Councillor Elaine Ware**

At the last Council meeting on 11 October, we were told that Old Abbey House in Abingdon would be transformed into council-owned social housing. Please can

you update us on progress? I am especially interested in the outcome of the feasibility study in terms of costs, whether the scheme will involve renovation or a complete rebuild, and which Vale officer is leading on this project.

**C. Councillor Catherine Webber to Cabinet Member for waste, Councillor Charlotte Dickson**

Food waste is recycled to form fertiliser and electricity, according to Vale's website. Until recently we were told to use the light green compostable bin liners, which are biodegradable, and which residents purchase at our own expense especially for our food recycling bins. Now we're told we can use ordinary plastic bags, such as the 5 pence bags from the supermarkets, or even bread bags. I thought plastic bags weren't biodegradable. So how are these non-biodegradable plastic bags used in recycling our food waste?

**D. Question from Councillor Emily Smith to Leader of the council, Councillor Matthew Barber**

Could the Leader of the council explain how elected members and members of the public will be involved in the development of the Joint Spatial Plan for Oxfordshire? Given that the County, City and district councils have different community involvement policies, which body will be responsible for coordinating public engagement to ensure consultation is meaningful and the process is transparent?

**E. Councillor Debby Hallett to Cabinet Member for the corporate services contracts, Councillor Robert Sharp**

Could the Cabinet member please clarify where in the five councils outsourcing negotiations and when scrutiny members were warned we would no longer have control of our own emails and be forced to use a Microsoft Outlook solution? Even if Council agreed to this, surely the timing could have come between administrations so a 'new council, new method' would apply? Why would Vale sign up to an email system where members cannot have our emails forwarded to us so we can manage our own workloads? If the answer includes something about risk, I'd like to hear about the evidence of any security breaches we've had altogether per year in the past 5 years, and how many of those are due to members using their own email servers to manage their emails? To precisely what problem is this the best solution?

**F. Question from Councillor Palmer to the Leader of the council, Councillor Matthew Barber**

Two years ago I asked Councillor Barber about how the Vale was going to respond to the Syrian Refugee Crisis. At the time as a council we were unsure how to respond but I believe in the interim there has been a positive response. Would the Leader give an update?

## **12. Motions on notice**

To consider the following motion submitted in accordance with Council procedure rule 38.

### **Proposed by Councillor Catherine Webber, seconded by Councillor Debby Hallett**

This council has statutory obligations to measure and monitor air quality in the district, to declare Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) where pollution is high, and to produce Air Quality Action Plans (AQAPs).

This council also has an obligation to facilitate and implement the actions recommended in AQAPs, wherever possible.

This Council recognises the importance of taking action to reduce air pollution. To that end, Council requests Cabinet to do two things:

- Include in its proposed budget for 2018/19 funding for all projects recommended in our 2015 AQAP that are not yet completed, and
- Ensure this council has a low emissions strategy similar to that of South Oxfordshire District Council, which will focus the council's efforts to reduce air pollution, particularly in Vale's AQMAs.

## **13. Exclusion of the public**

To consider whether to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting for the following items 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) they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 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.

## **14. Minutes**

To adopt and sign as a correct record the confidential Council minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2017.

## **15. Staffing matters**

At its meeting on 6 December 2017 the Joint Staff Committee will consider the report of the interim head of corporate services on staffing matters.

The recommendations of the committee will be circulated to all councillors.

## **16. Corporate services contract**

At its meeting on 8 December 2017 Cabinet will consider the report of the head of devolution and government and head of legal and democratic services on the corporate services contract – report to follow.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors.

## **17. Management restructure**

At its meeting on 8 December 2017 Cabinet will consider the report of the acting chief executive on the management restructure – report to follow.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors.