

Council Agenda



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Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday 14 February 2018 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 8 - 17)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2017.

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 13 December 2017 Mr David Surnam of the Kingfisher Canoe Club in Abingdon presented a petition in support of a new home for the club to operate from land at Rye Farm (see minute 41/12/2017).

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. Housing and growth deal for Oxfordshire

Cabinet, at its meeting on 9 February 2018, will consider a report and recommend Council on whether to approve the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal. If approved by the constituent authorities, delivery of the Deal will be overseen by the Oxfordshire Growth Board. The Growth Board is a statutory joint committee of the six Oxfordshire local authorities, the Local Enterprise Partnership and key strategic partners.

The Deal, as announced by Government in November 2017, provides £215 million of additional government funding for Oxfordshire, to deliver the key infrastructure required to underpin proposed housing development, and additional funds to increase the supply of affordable housing. This funding is comprised of £150 million for infrastructure, £60 million for affordable housing and £5 million capacity funding.

The additional funding will support Oxfordshire's ambition to plan for and support the delivery of up to 100,000 new homes across Oxfordshire between 2011 and 2031 to address the county's housing shortage and expected economic growth. This level of housing growth is that identified by the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014, and is consistent with that planned for in existing and emerging Oxfordshire Local Plans.

The Deal also includes a proposed package of planning "freedoms and flexibilities" to help Oxfordshire to plan collectively for the long-term, sustainable development of the county by offering some protection from the risk of unplanned speculative development for the duration of development of a joint spatial plan and early years of its implementation.

If approved by all constituent authorities, confirmation, in writing, will go to the Secretary of State along with submission of the agreed Delivery Plan.

The Deal brings with it additional funds for Oxfordshire. It is proposed that Oxfordshire County Council acts as the Accountable Body for the deal and provides relevant reports to the Growth Board on a quarterly basis.

Following decisions from Government expected on 5 and 7 February, the Housing and Growth Deal Delivery Plan as well as a full report for the Cabinet meeting will be published and circulated to all councillors.

Cabinet's recommendations will be circulated to all councillors prior to the Council meeting.

8. Treasury management mid-year monitoring 2017/18

(Pages 18 - 29)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 9 February 2018, will consider a monitoring report on the

treasury management activities for the first six months of 2017/18 and an update on the current economic conditions with a view to the remainder of the year.

The Joint Audit and Governance Committee considered the report at its meeting on 29 January 2018 and had not recommended any adjustments to the strategy as a result of the first six months' activities.

The report of the head of finance, which Cabinet will consider on 9 February 2018, is attached. Cabinet's recommendations will be circulated to all councillors prior to the Council meeting.

9. Treasury management strategy 2018/19

(Pages 30 - 55)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 9 February 2018, will consider a report on the council's treasury management strategy (TMS) for 2018/19 to 2020/21 and set out the expected treasury operations for this period.

The Joint Audit and Governance Committee considered the report at its meeting on 29 January 2018 and had not recommended any adjustments to the strategy.

The report of the head of finance, which Cabinet will consider on 9 February 2018, is attached. Cabinet recommendations will be circulated to all councillors prior to the Council meeting.

10. Revenue budget 2018/19 and capital programme to 2022/23

Cabinet, at its meeting on 9 February 2018, will consider the report of the head of finance on the draft revenue budget 2018/19, and the capital programme to 2022/23.

The report of the head of finance, which Cabinet will consider on 9 February 2018, has been circulated to all councillors. Please bring this to the Council meeting.

The Scrutiny Committee will consider this report at its meeting on 8 February 2018. Any views or recommendations will be reported to Council.

Cabinet's recommendations will be circulated to all councillors prior to the Council meeting.

11. Council tax 2018/19

To consider the report of the head of finance on the setting of the council tax for the 2018/19 financial year - report to follow.

12. Pay policy statement 2018/19

(Pages 56 - 59)

To consider the report of the head of corporate services on the adoption of a pay policy statement to meet the requirements of the Localism Act - report attached.

13. Review of membership of the Planning Committee and the political balance on committees

(Pages 60 - 64)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic on the membership of the Planning Committee and the political balance of committees – report attached.

14. Report of the leader of the council

(Pages 65 - 66)

(1) Urgent cabinet decisions

In accordance with the Cabinet arrangements and 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.

On 21 December 2017, the Cabinet member for corporate services took an urgent decision to award a contract to purchase a software licence. The decision had not been advertised on the Cabinet work programme for 28 days before it was made as the council's IT contractor and the council's procurement contractor were leading on the re-procurement of the licences for which a budget was in place and the timing of completion and contract award was not fully appreciated. This decision was urgent and could not be deferred because the council's software licences expired at the end of December and new licences needed to be in place by then to enable the council to continue to operate its IT solution. The agreement of the Scrutiny Committee chairman was sought and received before the Cabinet member made this decision.

(2) Delegation of cabinet functions

To note changes to the leader's scheme of delegation (attached). The changes involve the continuation of Councillor Eric Batts as cabinet's representative on both the Safer Oxfordshire Partnership Oversight Committee and the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership. These changes took effect on 12 January 2018.

(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. Questions on notice

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

1. From Councillor Catherine Webber to Councillor Matthew Barber, Cabinet member for Partnership and Insight

Residents are asking about the Five Council Partnership deal and why the expectant savings for tax payers of £50million has now dropped drastically to only £20 million. Can the Cabinet Member help members, and the public, to understand what's gone wrong by

publishing the relevant information? After all, this is public money we're talking about. The deal seems to be shrouded in secrecy, so anyone seeking information is forced to file a Freedom of Information (FOI) request. Responding to FOI requests is costly to the Council, and frustrating for our residents. How can the administration improve transparency and ensure the public have access to more detailed information about the Five Council Partnership?

2. From Councillor Debby Hallett to Councillor Matthew Barber, Cabinet member for Partnership and Insight

Whenever a decision is made to outsource public services to an external provider, we outsource the work but not the responsibility. It is Vale that must meet payroll, manage HR issues, keep the IT systems working, and replace batteries in officers' mobile telephones. Cabinet decided to trust Capita with much of this work.

News of Capita's fall in share price after profits warnings are of huge concern to this council. Their announced strategic and operational changes raise the question of whether Capita are still willing and able to carry out their performance commitments to us. This council is just a small part of their world, but they are a big part of ours.

When Cabinet decided to outsource this work, it appears no one was designated as Contract Manager. Who **at Vale** is now responsible for managing the contract with Capita? What is the true savings per year for Vale now that we have so many of our senior officers dedicating so much of their time to this outsourcing scheme? What has been the cost of officers in addressing issues arising? And what is the level of service now, compared to what it was before 5CP?

Where can members and the public see what contingency plans Vale has put in place to mitigate the risk of Capita's services to Vale ceasing?

3. From Councillor Emily Smith to Councillor Roger Cox, Cabinet member for Planning:

In terms of the Housing Test imposed by Government, here are the targets, as I understand them to be, for house building Vale must achieve, or face consequences in our planning policies or processes:

Year	If housing delivery falls below x% of target	Action
2017	95%	LPAs will need to develop an action plan to address shortfall
2017	85%	LPAs will need to plan for a 20% buffer in their annual housing land supply calculations
2018	25%	The presumption in favour of Sustainable development will automatically apply.
2019	45%	The presumption in favour of Sustainable development will automatically apply.
2020	65%	The presumption in favour of Sustainable development will automatically apply.

I understand the 2020 target is likely to actually be 75%.

Can the Cabinet member explain to Council how we measure and report our figures, how we are doing so far, and what steps are being taken to ensure we do not regress into the situation where we've been for most of the time he's been in charge, where speculative developers have the upper hand?

4. From Councillor Judy Roberts to Councillor Mike Murray, Cabinet member for Development and Regeneration

What funding is allocated in the 2018-19 Vale budget specifically to the Housing Enabler role as outlined in the Joint Housing Delivery Strategy?

5. From Councillor Debby Hallett to Councillor Matthew Barber, Leader of the council

Can the leader please provide a simple list of the explicit benefits to Vale in this Growth Deal, and the explicit costs to Vale (or expectations from Government on Vale)? We are not (yet) a unitary authority, and therefore we are making decisions for the Vale, as opposed to Oxfordshire County in general. I think it's important that members know exactly what's promised to Vale, and what's expected from Vale, before we vote on this deal.

16. Motions on notice under Council procedure rule 38

No motions have been received from councillors in accordance with Council procedure rule 38.

17. 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 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.

18. Minutes

To adopt and sign as a correct record the confidential Council minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2017.