

# Council Agenda



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## Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday 10 October 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

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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 7 - 22)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2018 - 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

To receive any petitions from the public.

### 7. Oxfordshire Joint Spatial Plan – Scoping Document

(Pages 23 - 58)

At the Council meeting held on 14 February 2018, the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal was discussed. As part of the deal, Oxfordshire's principal councils were required to adopt a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan, also known as the Oxfordshire Joint Spatial Plan. Council agreed that:

“commencement of work to support and deliver the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan is subject to Cabinet being satisfied that the conditions set out at Appendix 4 of the

report of the head of partnership and insight to Cabinet on 9 February 2018 have been met.”

Appendix 4 required the scope of the Joint Statutory Spatial Plan to be agreed by full Council.

The Joint Scrutiny Committee considered the draft scoping document on 20 September 2018.

Cabinet considered the draft scoping document at its meeting on 28 September 2018 and made a series of suggested changes. These are set out in the addendum attached to this agenda. Cabinet authorised the head of planning, in agreement with the other Oxfordshire councils’ equivalent, to make any necessary minor and presentational changes to the draft Joint Statutory Spatial Plan’s Scoping Document before publication.

A copy of the report considered by Cabinet is **attached**.

**Recommendation:** to approve the Oxfordshire Joint Spatial Plan’s scoping document (as set out in Appendix 3 to the head of planning’s report to Cabinet on 28 September 2018).

## **8. Making the Radley Neighbourhood Development Plan**

(Pages 59 - 62)

Cabinet, at its meeting 5 October 2018, will consider the head of planning’s report on the Radley Neighbourhood Development Plan. The report of the head of planning, which Cabinet will consider on 5 October, is **attached**.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors.

## **9. Treasury management outturn 2017/18**

(Pages 63 - 84)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 5 October 2018, will consider the head of finance’s report on the outturn performance of the treasury management function for the financial year 2017/18.

The report of the head of finance, which Cabinet will consider on 5 October 2018, is **attached**. The Joint Audit and Governance Committee considered the report at its meeting on 27 September 2018 and made no recommendations to Cabinet.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors.

## **10. Community Governance Review**

(Pages 85 - 107)

At its meeting on 8 October the Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee will make final decisions in respect of its community governance reviews of the boundary between Great Coxwell and Great Faringdon parishes and the boundary between Abingdon-on-Thames, Radley, St Helen Without and Sunningwell parishes.

If the committee agrees to amend the boundaries, in accordance with its draft proposals, it will also recommend Council authorises the head of legal and democratic to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to make related alteration orders to make district wards and county divisions coterminous with the change to ensure effective and convenient representation of local residents.

A copy of the reports which the committee will consider are **attached**. Any recommendations will be circulated to all councillors prior to the Council meeting.

## **11. Election fees and charges 2019**

(Pages 108 - 114)

To consider the report of the returning officer on the setting of fees and charges for the 2019 district and parish elections (**attached**).

## **12. 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).

## **13. Questions on notice**

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

### **A. Councillor Judy Roberts to Councillor Roger Cox, Leader of the council**

The chairman of the Local Government Association's Brexit Taskforce has said "the UK's exit from the European Union will have a significant impact on local government. Brexit will ultimately be judged on the success or failure by local areas; real people in real communities. Councils are taking a lead on preparations for Brexit because our residents and our local businesses expect us to be ready." What has Vale of White Horse District Council done in terms of an analysis of the potential impact on local business, employment and the services we deliver? And what mitigation is being put in place to protect Vale residents, housing provision and our Enterprise Zones?

**B. Councillor Helen Pighills to Councillor Mike Murray Cabinet member for Development and Regeneration**

A year has now passed since, the then Leader, Councillor Barber formally announced plans to turn Old Abbey House in Abingdon into council owned social housing. Please can the Cabinet member update us on this development and when residents can expect a planning application to be submitted for consultation?

**C. Councillor Catherine Webber to Councillor Roger Cox, Leader of the council**

In the leader's press statement responding to the announcement that the Expressway will be using a route through Corridor B, the leader stated that "we" support the "principles" of the Expressway but mentioned concerns about any route going west of Oxford.

- i Can the leader please explain what exactly are those principles he supports?
- ii But why is the leader not fighting to protect other Vale residents in harm's way, communities and environment to the east of Oxford such as Sunningwell, Radley, Marcham, Shippon, Wootton, and Abingdon?

**D. Councillor Emily Smith to Councillor Roger Cox, Leader of the council**

Given there has not been any public consultation on the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, and none is expected for another year, Councillor Cox's position on the Highways England Stakeholder group will be a vitally important opportunity to ensure Highways England understand the views of Vale residents and potential impacts of routes through communities in corridor B.

However, full Council has not yet debated a position on the Expressway or canvassed the opinions of members, parish councils and residents about the significant environmental and social impacts on Vale communities.

How is the leader planning to collect and understand the views and concerns of local members and parish councils to ensure he and the Cabinet are fully appraised of the impact of each route before representing us at the first Highways England stakeholder meeting in November?

**E. Councillor Bob Johnston to Councillor Roger Cox, Cabinet member for Planning?**

In December 2014 Council passed a motion as follows "Council believes the present system of s106 negotiations leaves much to be desired, and that the council should continue to revise the process to produce a system which is more open, more transparent and includes input from parish and town councils". What decisions and actions have been taken since then to create a more open and transparent system and to include town and parish councils in the s106 process?

**F. Councillor Emily Smith to Councillor Alice Badcock, Cabinet Member for Community Services**

The Vale's Local Leisure Facilities Strategy published in 2016 was submitted as one of our detailed policies for Local Plan Part 2. Page 29 and 38 highlight the replacement of the Louie Memorial Pavilion and the 4<sup>th</sup> Oxford Scout Hut in North Hinksey as High priority for funding during this financial year (2018/19). But, as we learned at the last full council meeting the Botley service centre area has not received any funding from the Vale for leisure for the last 4 years, nor is any planned.

What is the Cabinet member doing to ensure that this High priority project happens?

**G. Councillor Debby Hallett to Councillor Roger Cox, Leader of the council**

The Vale of White Horse Residents' Survey 2018 highlighted "large increases in negative attitudes in terms of the council needing to be more open and honest". What does he think are the top reasons for these results, and what is Cabinet planning to do to rectify this perception?

**14. Motions on notice**

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

Motion to be proposed by Councillor Debby Hallett, seconder to be notified:

Council notes that Vale of White Horse is an area of exceptionally high property values relative to the rest of England.

Council notes that the statutory definition of 'Affordable Housing', whether to buy or to rent, is related directly to these property values (currently 80% of market value).

Council notes the study brought to Vale Scrutiny Committee in February 2018 by the then interim head of housing and economic development, which shed further light on the nature of affordability in Vale of White Horse.

- This study looked at house prices and rents in quartiles and determined that to buy a lower quartile property, costing £255,000 in Vale, an income of £57,000 is needed, which is an upper quartile income. So only the highest income levels can afford to buy the lowest priced properties in our district.
- Over recent years, growth in local incomes has not kept pace with growth in house prices or rents, so the so-called 'affordable' housing is not affordable to too many households and individuals.

Therefore, Council asks Councillor Roger Cox, Leader of the council, to write to James Brokenshire, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the council's concern. Council urges the Secretary of State to give consideration to the definition of affordable housing, taking into account the impact very high property values have on the current definition. Council urges him to consider a national debate on affordability and the implementation of a regional based definition of 'affordable housing', using a maximum price model for affordable housing within an area based on local incomes and circumstances, rather than the market value of the house.