

Council Agenda



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Date: 29 September 2020

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Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday 7 October 2020 at 7.00 pm
as a virtual meeting

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

1. Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

(Pages 10 - 21)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2020 - 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 chair's announcements

To receive notification of any matters which the chair determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the chair.

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. Making the Great Coxwell Neighbourhood Development Plan Review

(Pages 22 - 104)

At its meeting on 7 October 2020, Cabinet will consider a report on the progress of the Great Coxwell Neighbourhood Development Plan Review and the relevant considerations in relation to whether the revised plan should be made (formally adopted).

The report of the head of planning, which Cabinet considered on 25 September 2020, is attached.

RECOMMENDATION: to

1. make the revised Great Coxwell Neighbourhood Development Plan, as set out in

Appendix 2 of the head of planning's report to Cabinet on 25 September 2020, so that it becomes part of the council's development plan; and

2. authorise the head of planning, in consultation with the Cabinet member for corporate services and transformation, and in agreement with the Qualifying Body, to make non-material changes, such as the correction of any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.

8. Treasury outturn 2019/20

(Pages 105 - 125)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 25 September 2020, considered the report of the interim head of finance on the outturn performance of the treasury management function for the financial year 2019/20.

The report of the interim head of finance, which the Joint Audit and Governance Committee considered on 22 September 2020 and Cabinet considered on 25 September 2020, is **attached**.

The Joint Audit and Governance Committee noted the treasury management outturn report 2019/20 and was satisfied that the treasury activities were carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy.

RECOMMENDATION: to

1. approve the treasury management outturn report for 2019/20; and
2. approve the actual 2019/20 prudential indicators within the report.

9. Budget 2020/21

(Pages 126 - 132)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 2 October 2020, will consider the report of the interim head of finance on changes to the 2020/21 budgets to reflect the financial impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, and other matters, on the council.

The report, which Cabinet will consider on 2 October 2020, is **attached**.

Cabinet's recommendations will be circulated to all councillors.

10. Corporate Plan 2020-2024

(Pages 133 - 528)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 2 October 2020, will consider the report of the acting deputy chief executive – transformation and operations on the corporate plan 2020-2024.

The report, which Cabinet will consider on 2 October 2020, is **attached**.

Cabinet's recommendations will be circulated to all councillors.

11. Delegation of enforcement functions from Oxfordshire County Council to Vale of White Horse District Council under Covid-19 legislation

(Pages 529 - 534)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 2 October 2020, will consider a report on the delegation of functions granted to Oxfordshire County Council under The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restriction) (England) (No.3) Regulations 2020 that give local authorities powers relating to the control and prevention of coronavirus.

The report, which Cabinet will consider on 2 October 2020, is **attached**.

Cabinet's recommendations will be circulated to all councillors.

12. Report of the leader of the council

1. To receive the report of the leader of the Council
2. Urgent cabinet decisions

In accordance with the Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules, a Cabinet or Cabinet member 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 or that the decision cannot reasonably be deferred. Treating the decision as a matter of urgency must be agreed by the chair of the Scrutiny Committee and must be reported to Council, together with the reasons for urgency.

Council is requested to note the details of the following urgent decisions.

Discretionary grants fund

On 29 May 2020, Councillor Emily Smith, Leader of the council, took a decision to approve the eligibility and funding level to distribute the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund (DGF) and authorise the acting deputy chief executive – place, jointly with the interim head of finance, to award the grants.

The chair of the Scrutiny Committee agreed to waive call in due to the Government requirement for the grant fund to open from 1 June 2020.

Discretionary business grants round two

On 19 June 2020, Councillor Emily Smith, Leader of the council, took a decision to approve Round Two of the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund (DGF) and authorise the acting deputy chief executive – place, jointly with the interim head of finance, to award the grants.

The chair of the Scrutiny Committee agreed to waive call in to ensure grants could be awarded to eligible businesses as soon as practicable.

Discretionary business grants top up fund

On 10 August 2020, Councillor Emily Smith, Leader of the council, took a decision to approve a top-up grant round of the Local Authority Discretionary Grants Fund (DGF) and to authorise the acting deputy chief executive – place, jointly with the interim head of finance, to award the grants.

The chair of the Scrutiny Committee agreed to waive call in due to the Government requirement for the grant fund to close on 28 August 2020.

Emergency Assistance Grant policy

On 28 August 2020, Councillor Debby Hallett, Deputy council Leader (in the absence of Councillor Emily Smith, Leader of the council) approved a grants policy and eligibility criteria to distribute the Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for food and other essential supplies.

The chair of the Scrutiny Committee agreed to waive call in due to the urgent need to open the grant scheme to allow the council to distribute the funds to support those in need.

Commercial negotiations with Capita and the review of Exchequer Services and Finance IT systems

Cabinet, at its meeting on 25 September 2020, considered a confidential report on the above issues.

The chair of the Scrutiny Committee agreed to waive call in to allow for the early implementation and progress of Cabinet's decisions.

13. Update on Oxfordshire Growth Board

(Pages 535 - 536)

To receive a written update on the Oxfordshire Growth Board from Councillor Neil Fawcett, Cabinet member for strategic partnerships and place – **attached**.

14. Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Steering Group

At its meeting on 12 February 2020, Council appointed Councillor David Grant as the council's representative on the Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Steering Group.

Following the recent changes to Cabinet member portfolios made by Councillor Emily Smith, Leader of the council, Council is asked to appoint Councillor Catherine Webber, Cabinet member for climate emergency and environment, to the steering group.

RECOMMENDATION: to appoint Councillor Catherine Webber as the council's representative on the Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Steering Group.

15. Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel

At the annual meeting of Council held on 15 May 2019 Councillors Andy Cooke, Hayleigh Gascoigne and Matthew Barber were appointed to the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel.

Council is invited to appoint Councillor Jenny Hannaby in place of Councillor Hayleigh Gascoigne.

RECOMMENDATION: to appoint Councillor Jenny Hannaby as a member of the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel.

16. Planning Committee membership

At its annual meeting held on 15 May 2019, Council resolved to allocate one of the Liberal Democrat seats on the Planning Committee to the Conservative Group. Officers have been advised that the Liberal Democrat and Conservative Groups would like to restore the political balance on the committee from 2 November 2020.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council rescind the decision taken at the at the annual meeting held on 15 May 2019 to allocate one of the Liberal Democrat seats on the Planning Committee to the Conservative Group.
2. That Council appoints Councillor Shelley to the Conservative seat and Councillors Batts, Boyd and Howell as substitute members.
3. That Council appoints Councillor Avery to the Liberal Democrat Group seat.
4. That these changes become effective from 2 November 2020.

17. Review of the council's constitution

(Pages 537 - 550)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic and monitoring officer on proposed changes to the council's constitution – attached.

18. Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 - proposal to re-appoint a joint Independent Remuneration Panel

(Pages 551 - 554)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic on the appointment of a joint independent remuneration panel with South Oxfordshire District Council – attached.

19. Re-appointment of independent persons to advise on code of conduct issues

(Pages 555 - 557)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic and monitoring officer on extending the term of office of two independent persons to advise on code of conduct issues – **attached**.

20. Questions on notice

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

- A. From Councillor Andy Foulsham to Councillor Andy Crawford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets

Could the Cabinet member outline the impact on the district council's finances of the measures to deal with the impact of COVID-19 on local residents, and of the inevitable reduction in income to the council? Could he also identify how much additional funding has been received from central Government to cover the expenditure incurred at their request?

- B. From Councillor Sarah Medley to Councillor Judy Roberts, Cabinet Member for Development and Infrastructure

At the full Council meeting in July, we highlighted the concerns of many residents in Harwell and Didcot regarding the cycle accessibility and safety of the proposed design of the B4493 roundabout as part of the plans for the Valley Park development. We have since been raising this issue with the relevant decision-makers at all levels, including calling meetings with Vale and County Council officers and the local county councillor, and we are pleased to see that the roundabout design is now being reviewed. However, this is just one of many aspects of the Valley Park proposals which are less than optimal with regards to sustainability and active travel. Can we be assured that the Valley Park development will be built to safely accommodate and encourage cyclists, and that it will follow the garden principles that guide the development of Didcot?

- C. From Councillor Jenny Hannaby to Councillor Judy Roberts, Cabinet Member for Development and Infrastructure

If the changes to the current planning system that were proposed in the government consultation of that name get adopted, what effect would that have on Vale of White Horse District Council's ability to deliver affordable housing?

- D. From Councillor Amos Duveen to Councillor Andy Crawford, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Assets

Given the disturbing reporting of human rights violations in various supply chains around the world, especially (but not limited to) the forced labour camps in Xinjiang, China, where Uyghur Muslims are being detained, can Councillor Crawford please confirm that the procurement policy he is developing will have an ethical dimension so that Vale residents can be assured that in future, so far as is possible, their council tax will not be spent on the products of such gross abuses?

21. Motions on notice

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

(1) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Alison Jenner, seconder to be notified:

This Council notes:

The publication by Government of the White Paper, 'Planning for the Future' on 6 August 2020, which set out proposals on reforms to the planning process for the future, falsely frames the problem in housing supply as an issue resulting from council limitations.

- That the vast majority of planning applications are given the go ahead by local authority planning committees, with permission granted to around 9 out of 10 applications.
- That research by the Local Government Association has said that there are existing planning permissions for more than one million homes that have not yet been started.
- As of the 1 April 2020 there is permission for 10,843 (or full permission for 5,055 number) homes in the Vale that have not yet been built. Construction has only started on site for 40% of these (or equivalent 85% for those with full permission).

This Council is concerned that the proposals in the White Paper seek to:

- Reduce or remove the right of residents to object to applications near them.
- Grant automatic rights for developers to build on land identified as 'for growth'.
- Remove section 106 payments for infrastructure and their replacement with a national levy.

This Council further notes:

- The Royal Institute for British Architects called the proposals 'shameful and which will do almost nothing to guarantee delivery of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes'. RIBA also said that proposals could lead to the next generation of slum housing.
- The Local Government Association and District Councils Network are both working on responses to reflect the serious concerns raised by their member councils from across the country.

This Council believes:

- That existing planning procedures, as currently administered by our own team in Vale of White Horse, allow for local democratic control over future development, and give local people a say in planning proposals that affect them.
- That proposals for automatic rights to build in 'growth' areas, and increased permitted development rights, risk unregulated growth and unsustainable communities.
- That local communities must be in the driving seat on shaping the future of their communities, and local determination of the planning framework and planning applications play an important part in this process.

This Council resolves to:

1. Take part in the consultation in the planning proposals, and to make representations against the proposals in the areas outlined in this motion.
2. Write to both of our Members of Parliament explaining the position of Council on these proposals, urging them to support the intentions of this motion by objecting, where necessary to those proposals, and for any reply from them to be placed on the council's website.

3. Highlight its concerns over these proposals with the public and local residents.

22. 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 paragraph 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.

23. Impact of Covid-19 on leisure facilities

(Pages 558 - 568)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 2 October 2020, will consider the confidential report of the interim head of development and regeneration on the impact of Covid-19 on leisure facilities.

The confidential report of the interim head of development and regeneration, which Cabinet will consider on 2 October 2020, is **attached**.

Cabinet's recommendations will be circulated to councillors.

24. Budget 2020/21

(Pages 569 - 570)

The confidential appendices to the budget 2020/21 item (agenda item 9) are **attached**.