

Council Agenda



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Date: 16 March 2021

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Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 7.00 pm
as a virtual meeting

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M Reed".

Margaret Reed
Head of Legal and Democratic

To watch this virtual meeting, follow this link to the council's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTj2pCic8vzucpzlaSWE3UQ>

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Agenda

Open to the public including the press

1. Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

(Pages 9 - 31)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2021 – 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. A Joint Local Plan

(Pages 32 - 59)

At its meeting on 17 March 2021 Cabinet will consider a report on the case for preparing a Joint Local Plan, instead of separate local plans for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils. The report of the head of planning which Cabinet will consider on 17 March is attached.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors following the Cabinet meeting.

8. Further extension of term of office of independent persons for code of conduct matters

(Pages 60 - 62)

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.

9. Report of the leader of the council

To receive the report of the leader of the council.

10. Update on Oxfordshire Growth Board

To receive an update on the Oxfordshire Growth Board from Councillor Fawcett, Cabinet member for strategic partnerships and place.

11. Questions on notice

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

A. Question from Councillor Gascoigne to Councillor Helen Pighills, Cabinet member for healthy communities

In light of the disappearance and tragic death of Sarah Everard, women have taken to social media to share their experiences and talk about the many ways in which they have all felt unsafe when just trying to go about their lives. What assurances can the council give that it is doing what it can to protect women and vulnerable people in the district to go about their lives?

B. Question from Councillor Medley to Councillor Roberts, Cabinet member for development and infrastructure

Councillor Gascoigne and I can confirm first-hand that during the past year of the pandemic and the various lockdowns, having access to green open spaces on the Great Western Park (GWP) development has been a lifeline for many residents.

With the hope of lockdown restrictions lifting in the coming months, it would be fantastic if residents of GWP are able to finally access and use the full range of community facilities this summer. Please can the Cabinet member provide an update on the following key items of infrastructure on Great Western Park:

1. District Community Centre: when will this be open to the public and available for bookings, how will it be run and will the GWP Community Support Group be able to run their Community larder from there?
2. The Skate Park, Tennis Courts, Multi-Use Games Area and Healthcare Site: when will these be transferred to the Vale?

12. Motions on notice

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

A. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Gascoigne, seconded by Councillor Medley

Council notes:

- As specified in the Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031: Part 2, the district council has committed to provide 22,760 new homes in the period 2011-2031.
- Residents across the Vale regularly contact members about the existing pressure on local health services and concerns about additional homes increasing demand.
- The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group is responsible for ensuring health provision for our growing population is provided.
- If section 106 contributions from developers agreed by the District Council are not used by the CCG within a set time, the money can be paid back to the developer, which would result in an under-provision of health care in our communities.
- Despite significant effort by council officers and local health professionals, the current system is preventing us from providing the health services that local people need and deserve.
- Our planning service and planning committee are therefore under pressure to approve new housing without plans for healthcare in place.

Council believes:

- This council has an important role in improving the health and wellbeing of our residents.
- Primary health provision should be planned based on population growth and vision for health care provision in the district.
- That sufficient infrastructure such as transport, health and education should be provided alongside, and preferably ahead of new housing development.
- The current national system for ensuring health infrastructure is provided, through Clinical Commissioning Groups, is not working.

Council requests:

1. Officers continue to work with Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group contacts to ensure sufficient provision is made for primary care services for key strategic housing sites such as Valley Park, Great Western Park and North Abingdon.
2. The leader of the council write to Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) requesting a meeting to discuss:
 - Better working relationship between the two organisations.

- Ensuring OCCG take a more pro-active approach to our planning process and respond to planning application consultations in a timely and ongoing basis to support the work of our planning department and our Infrastructure and development team.
- How the OCCG can engage more proactively with the planning authority to better plan healthcare for strategic sites housing sites in the Vale linked to the council's corporate plan theme of "building healthy communities".
- To understand how OCCG uses population forecasts to plan primary healthcare and what its plans are for Oxfordshire
- To discuss particular case studies where there is a potential for section 106 monies to be lost

3. The Council Leader write to the Ministers for Health and MHCLG to:

- explain the difficulties local planning authorities have to obtain information and commitment to deliver health services from OCCG.
- provide specific case studies about where health provision negotiated as part of section 106 is at risk of being lost.
- press the need for whatever structure replaces Clinical Commissioning groups as part of the health reform has working with local planning authorities and its heart.
- ask what government are doing to increase the number of GPs and other health staff and funding to keep up with number of homes.

B. Motion Proposed by Councillor de la Harpe, seconded by Councillor Fawcett

Council notes that:

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has a Cycling Design Standards document which provides best practice for roundabout junction design.

- It states in the introduction "We need to ensure we create the right conditions for everyone to choose to cycle, whether they are young or old, male or female, or disabled. We want to make cycling a preferred choice for everyone."
- And in section 3.3.5 "Roundabouts can be particularly daunting for some cycle users, especially large multi-lane roundabouts. Approaches, exits and the geometry of roundabouts should aim to cause traffic to slow down to use the roundabout and therefore reduce the risk to cycle users - roundabout entry should be radial, not tangential, in order to slow traffic."

A recent Oxford Brookes survey of Abingdon workplaces that was commissioned by Abingdon Liveable Streets showed that most residents who could walk to work do so but a significant proportion of residents who would like to cycle to work are put off by safety fears.

Roundabouts are particularly hazardous for cyclists and there have been several

accidents involving cyclists on roundabouts in the Vale.

Council notes, with regret, that in the Vale of White Horse and on routes where bicycles are not segregated from the traffic, new roundabouts designs, and the layout of refurbished ones continue to include tangential entries, also known as high speed or flared geometry designs.

Council believes that:

- the aims of the Oxfordshire Cycling Design Standards document are good and should be treated as central to planning new settlements well.
- we are moving towards a society where use of a personal vehicle for every journey (both local and longer distance) will be less common, and people will want to have the opportunity to cycle and walk to more local destinations where appropriate.
- Encouraging active travel is part of this council's corporate plan as it has many benefits. For the person themselves, they are likely to feel the physical and mental benefits. And for the environment, there is less traffic on the roads, and therefore less air pollution.
- Having declared a climate emergency, it is the duty of this Council to do what it can and working with partners, to make it easier for residents to choose to cycle for leisure, to school and to work (this applies especially on routes to the larger employment centres in and around our District such as Culham, Harwell Campus and Milton Park).

Council requests that the leader of the council write a letter to the OCC Cabinet Member for the Environment calling on her to:

1. Ensure that the OCC Cycling Design Standards are adhered to and, in particular, for all new roundabout designs and refurbishments in the Vale of White Horse to be based on those Design Standards.
2. Ensure that the Vale of White Horse Design Guide Principle DG31 for streets as social spaces is considered when reviewing junction design. i.e. "Streets should be designed as social spaces with the needs of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users put above the needs of the motorist."
3. Ensure that When developers consult planning and highways officers on potential road design, officers are proactive in promoting the priorities of local councils and are encouraged to design accordingly.
4. Create a culture of pro-actively striving for the best possible street and junction design when highways officers are advising developers about what is expected locally, ensuring that people walking, cycling and using public transport are prioritised.
5. Note that when highway design proposals are put forward that fall below the County Council's Design Standards, and/or do not further the County Council's policy objectives, we would expect the County Council as technical consultee on highways to oppose them.

References:

Oxfordshire County Council Cycling Standards:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/roads-and-transport-policies-and-plans/cyclingstandards.pdf>

Oxford Brookes Study of Abingdon Workplaces

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12YfdQeZO_FmltChpUGa9fQLxIS0C2qKAtNu9ndPrZcQ/

Map of accidents involving cyclists

<https://www.crashmap.co.uk/Search>

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 3 and 5 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. Covid-19 leisure support package

(Pages 63 - 93)

At its meeting on 17 March 2021 Cabinet will consider a confidential report on the impact of Covid-19 on leisure facilities in the district.

The confidential report of the acting deputy chief executive – place which Cabinet will consider on 17 March is attached.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors following the Cabinet meeting.

15. Oxfordshire Community Land Trust: affordable housing funding

(Pages 94 - 107)

At its meeting on 17 March 2021 Cabinet will consider a report on a proposal for funding through the Oxfordshire Growth Deal and S106 affordable housing commuted sums to support the development of an affordable housing scheme.

The confidential report of the acting deputy chief executive - place which Cabinet will consider on 17 March is attached.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors following the Cabinet meeting.

