

Council Agenda



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Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday 12 February 2020 at 7.00 pm
The Ridgeway, The Beacon, Portway, Wantage, OX12 9BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Reed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "M" being large and prominent.

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 8 - 18)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2019.

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. Council tax reduction scheme 2020/21

(Pages 19 - 89)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 February 2020, considered a report on the adoption and implementation of a modified council tax reduction scheme for the financial years 2020/21 onwards.

The report of the interim head of finance, which Cabinet considered on 3 February 2020, is attached.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: to adopt, for 2020/21 onwards, the 2014/15 adopted council tax reduction scheme with the following amendments:

- (i) to remove the 91.5 per cent limit when calculating their council tax bill, and remove the band E restriction for single parents with children under age five, so that

qualifying residents will have their council tax reduction calculated at 100 per cent of their council tax bill after any deductions and based on their property's actual council tax band, as set out in the interim head of finance's report to Cabinet on 3 February 2020;

- (ii) to widen the definition of who is considered disabled, in order to be exempt from paying council tax (e.g. council tax reduction will be calculated on 100 per cent of their council tax bill and their actual council tax band), as set out in the report; and
- (iii) to disregard Bereavement Support Payments as income when calculating an applicant's council tax reduction, as set out in the report.

8. Capital strategy 2020/21 to 2029/30

(Pages 90 - 101)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 February 2020, considered a report on the capital strategy for 2020/21 to 2029/30.

The report of the interim head of finance, which Cabinet considered on 3 February 2020, is **attached**.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: to approve the capital strategy 2020/21 to 2029/30 which is contained in appendix one of the interim head of finance's report to Cabinet on 3 February 2020.

9. Treasury management mid-year monitoring report 2019/20

(Pages 102 - 116)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 February 2020, considered a monitoring report on the treasury management activities for the first six months of 2019/20 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 27 January 2020. The committee resolved to note the treasury management mid-year monitoring report 2019/20 and was satisfied that the treasury activities are carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy.

The report of the interim head of finance, which Cabinet considered on 3 February 2020, is **attached**.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: to

1. note that the Joint Audit and Governance Committee is satisfied that the treasury activities are carried out in accordance with the treasury management strategy and policy; and
2. approve the interim head of finance's report to Cabinet on 3 February 2020.

10. Treasury management and investment strategy 2020/21

(Pages 117 - 149)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 February 2020, considered a report on the council's treasury management and investment strategy for 2020/21.

The Joint Audit and Governance Committee considered the report at its meeting on 27 January 2020 and had not recommended any adjustments to the strategy.

The committee resolved to recommend Cabinet to **approve the treasury management strategy, the prudential indicators and limits for 2020/21 to 2022/23 and the annual investment strategy 2020/21 as set out in the report.**

The report of the interim head of finance, which Cabinet considered on 3 February 2020, is **attached**.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: to

1. approve the treasury management strategy 2020/21, set out in appendix A to the head of finance's report to Cabinet on 3 February 2020;
2. approve the prudential indicators and limits for 2020/21 to 2022/23, as set out in appendix A to the head of finance's report; and
3. approve the annual investment strategy 2020/21, set out in appendix A (paragraphs 41 to 82) to the head of finance's report, and the lending criteria detailed in table 5 to that report.

11. Revenue budget 2020/21 and capital programme to 2024/25

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 February 2020, considered a report on the draft revenue budget 2020/21, and the capital programme to 2024/25.

The report of the interim head of finance, which Cabinet considered on 3 February 2020, has been circulated to all councillors. Please bring this to the Council meeting.

The Scrutiny Committee will consider this report at its meeting on 6 February 2020. Any views or recommendations will be reported to Council.

Cabinet agreed to maintain car park fees and charges at current levels, pending a review of fees and charges later in the year.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: to

1. set the revenue budget for 2020/21 as set out in appendix A.1 to the interim head of finance's report to Cabinet on 3 February 2020;
2. approve the capital programme for 2020/21 to 2024/25 as set out in appendix D.1 to the report, together with the capital growth bids set out in appendix D.3 of the report;
3. set the council's prudential limits as listed in appendix E to the report; and
4. approve the medium-term financial plan to 2024/25 as set out in appendix F.1 to the report.

12. Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Steering Group

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) are proposing to develop an Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Strategy to establish the principles and an action plan to deliver the charging infrastructure needed to support the transition to low emission

vehicles in the county. To assist with the development of the strategy, OCC has invited the council to appoint a councillor to the Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Steering Group.

At its meeting on 28 January 2020 the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee considered an officer proposal that Vale of White Horse District Council's representative should be a member of the committee. The committee agreed to recommend Council to appoint Councillor David Grant as the council's representative.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: to

1. appoint Councillor David Grant as the council's representative on the Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Steering Group;
2. appoint all members of the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee as substitute members.

13. Pay policy statement 2020/21

(Pages 150 - 153)

To consider the report of the acting deputy chief executive – transformation and operations on the adoption of a pay policy statement to meet the requirements of the Localism Act - report attached.

14. Report of the leader of the council

To receive any updates from the leader of the council.

15. Questions on notice

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

A. Question from Councillor Janet Shelley to Councillor Catherine Webber, Cabinet member for planning

"What are the contingency plans to allocate additional housing should South Oxfordshire District Council withdraw its plan"?

B. Question from Councillor Janet Shelley to Councillor Catherine Webber, Cabinet member for planning

"Can you confirm that the administration is fully supportive of Neighbourhood Plans"?

16. Motions on notice

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

- (1) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Alison Jenner, seconded by Councillor Ron Batstone:

Council notes the risks associated with modern life are significantly different from those of 1847 when the Town Police Clauses Act was passed, and even from those of the 1970s when the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 came into force. Clearly, the legislation has not kept pace with developments, in particular with the way

we use technology, apps, and mobile phones. It is difficult to facilitate a regulatory system when the legislation is based on the use of horse-drawn carriages and landline phones.

There is also a lack of consistency across the legislation. For example, the law requires a person who takes bookings for private hire vehicles to be licensed but there is no similar requirement for someone who does the same for hackney carriages. This lack, apart from the potential for sensitive personal information to fall into the wrong hands, can make it very difficult to investigate allegations of improper conduct by drivers of hackney carriages. This could undermine public confidence in the licensing regime. In addition, it provides a mechanism for private hire operators who have lost their licence to continue in business. They simply move to only “operating” hackney carriages, and no controls can be placed on them at all.

Examples of recent local issues include hackney carriage ‘operators’ who have pressured drivers to work excessively long hours with no proper breaks, and those who do not maintain their vehicles properly and continually present vehicles to testing stations which fail the test. The overriding aim of any licensing authority when carrying out its functions relating to the licensing of hackney or private hire drivers, vehicle proprietors, and operators is the protection of the public.

The Oxfordshire district councils and the county council share information under a Joint Operating Framework, and there is a national register of revoked and refused licences operated by the National Anti-Fraud Network. However, this does not address situations where drivers have allowed their licence to lapse pending enforcement action at one local authority and apply to another authority without declaring that enforcement action or the previous licences held. Local authority prosecutions are not currently detailed on enhanced DBS disclosures and there are recent local examples of the councils only finding out about such prosecutions by chance and after the licence has been granted.

Council therefore requests that the Leader of the council write to the district’s two Members of Parliament and to the Minister for Transport to request that the following action be taken:

1. The Government should move forward without delay on the three key measures recommended to achieve a safe service for passengers in the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Task and Finish Group report, namely:
 - The introduction of a national taxi licensing database;
 - Some form of cross border enforcement for local authorities;
 - National minimum standards for licences.
2. The Government should provide an update in respect of how they propose to deal with cross-border working;
3. The Government should legislate to require any person taking bookings for more than one vehicle to be licensed as an operator, with national standards for the information recorded by licensed operators in respect of bookings.

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 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.

18. Corporate services contract

Cabinet, at its meeting on 3 February 2020, considered a confidential report on the corporate services contract.

The report of the head of partnership and insight, which Cabinet considered on 3 February 2020 has been circulated to all councillors. Cabinet's recommendations have been circulated to all councillors.