

Council Agenda



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Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on Wednesday 14 July 2021 at 7.00 pm

First floor, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Reed".

Margaret Reed

Head of Legal and Democratic

To watch this 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 - 18)

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

A. Open Abbey Meadow Outdoor Pool NOW!

On 9 June 2021, the council received a petition, with in excess of 1,500 signatures, calling for the opening of the Abbey Meadows outdoor pool in Abingdon.

The council's Petition Scheme provides for petitions containing more than 500 signatures to be referred to Council for debate. 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.

Council is advised that the outdoor pool in Abingdon is due to re-open on Monday 12

July 2021.

B. To receive any petitions from the public.

7. Appointment of the council's monitoring officer, interim monitoring officer, electoral registration officer and returning officer

(Pages 19 - 24)

To consider the report of the deputy chief executive – transformation and operations – attached.

8. Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel

At the annual meeting of Council in May, Councillor Jenny Hannaby was appointed as one of the council's representatives on the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Panel. Following Councillor Hannaby's appointment to Oxfordshire County Councils Executive she is no longer permitted to sit on the scrutiny panel.

Council is invited to appoint a representative to fill the position.

9. Report of the leader of the council

To receive the report of the leader of the council.

10. Questions on notice

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

A. Question from Councillor Amos Duveen, to Councillor Catherine Webber, Cabinet member for climate emergency and environment

The Arc Leaders' Environmental Principles, endorsed by Cabinet in April, includes the aim of doubling tree and woodland cover over the Ox-Cam Arc region. This ambition is echoed by Oxfordshire Friends of the Earth in their 'In case of emergency' report calling for councils to double tree cover across the county by 2045. What is this council doing to increase tree cover?

B. Question from Councillor Eric de la Harpe to Councillor Andy Crawford, Cabinet member for finance and corporate assets

In early May Abingdon residents reported on social media that evidence of weed-killer was seen on Vale owned land. Thanks to these posts, councillors were able to alert senior officers who then stopped the weedkiller being used with immediate effect. Can the Cabinet member inform residents what was learned from the incident and give assurances that it will not happen again?

C. Question from Councillor Elaine Ware to Councillor Emily Smith, Leader of the council

At the 24 March 2021 meeting Council agreed the amended motion on health provision and for officers to contact Clinical Commissioning Group's to arrange meetings and for the Leader to write to the Ministers for Health and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Has this been done and If so when was contact made and what meetings have or are due to take place? What responses have been received from Ministers and MHCLG?

D. Question from Councillor Eric Batts to Councillor Helen Pighills, Cabinet member for healthy communities

In the recent press release with a big splash of opening the Abbey Meadow pool, and stating that:

"We promised we would do everything we could to get the pool opened as soon as possible, as we know how popular it is with families, particularly over the summer. I'm so pleased that we've been able to pull out all the stops to achieve this"

Would Councillor Pighills please advise what this entailed and why it was the last pool in the area to open?

E. Question from Councillor Nathan Boyd to Councillor Catherine Webber, Cabinet member for climate emergency and environment

Would the Cabinet member provide an update on the garden waste service in respect of a) the number of weeks the non-provision of service was experienced, b) the number of weeks lost not being able to take on new customers and the reason for this, and c) what is the estimated loss of income from the inability to take on new customers and the current waiting list?

F. Question from Councillor Simon Howell to Councillor Bethia Thomas, Cabinet member for community engagement

Following the launch of the White Horse Community Lottery on 14 June would the Cabinet Member provide an update on the success of the launch and how many organisations expressed an interest and signed up?

11. Motions on notice

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

A. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Andy Crawford, seconded by Councillor Bob Johnston

Local councillors and residents have campaigned for many years to get Grove Station reopened yet this much needed station remains unfunded.

Council notes that:

- Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study demonstrates that a station at Grove/Wantage can

be justified by 2028 on the basis of the new housing currently being built or being planned for in the area and emerging proposals for further employment growth, including the Williams Technology Campus.

- A report published by SLC Rail in 2018 considered a station at Grove to be “high value for money” within the Department for Transport’s Value for Money Assessment.
- local councillors have successfully pushed for Network Rail to electrify the line in a way that did not impede the reopening of the line through Grove.
- local councillors have helped ensure the new bridge over the railway line at Grove was constructed in such a way as not to impede a reopening.
- Investment in rail is an essential part of decarbonising transport and reducing dependence on the personal car.
- progress on this project is being delayed by the failure of Government to provide funding to progress the project to the next stage.
- even if funding to develop the proposal further is awarded, the source of funding to deliver Grove station is uncertain.

Council reiterates our commitment to ensuring Grove Station is reopened.

This Council therefore calls upon the Leader to:

- write to the Secretary of State for Transport to make the case for funding Grove Station to be part of the current round of government grants to help develop proposals for new stations.
- ask the Secretary of State for Transport for a commitment for the station to be delivered as soon as possible.
- continue to make the case for Grove Station at the Oxfordshire, Ox-Cam Arc meetings, and in conversations with our two Members of Parliament.

B. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Debby Hallett, seconded by Councillor David Grant

Council notes that:

1. the UK Government has declared a legally binding target for the UK to be carbon neutral by 2050 and committed to achieving the United Nations’ 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. this council has declared a Climate Emergency and adopted targets to be carbon neutral by 2030, with a target for the district to be carbon neutral by 2045.
3. the ‘Oxfordshire Strategic Vision’, adopted by all Oxfordshire Councils, articulates countywide shared aims and guiding principles for sustainable growth.
4. there are a number of consultations on spatial planning documents happening this summer that will impact on our ability to achieve the above targets and our corporate plan objectives.

Council believes that:

1. achieving our carbon reduction targets and realising the ‘Oxfordshire Strategic Vision’ for the district cannot be met without working effectively with partners across Oxfordshire, the region and beyond.
2. our emerging Joint Local Plan, the Oxfordshire Plan 2050, the government’s Oxford to Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework, and any other plans for growth and

development, are opportunities to help the world in its critical response to the climate emergency and efforts towards carbon neutrality.

3. we are in a position to gather evidence to contribute to and influence policy decisions as part of key local, regional and national consultations.
4. we should aim to achieve those United Nations' 17 SDGs.
5. there are critical sustainability challenges facing Oxfordshire that must be addressed; examples of these include:
 - a. water supply
 - b. Renewable Energy supply
 - c. reducing carbon emissions from existing homes through retrofitting
 - d. funding infrastructure required to support planned development.
 - e. decarbonising transport and reducing the need to travel
 - f. Identifying appropriate and sustainable levels of growth, and housing

Council therefore requests that:

1. officers ensure the challenges listed above are addressed through policy development and consultations, including:
 - a. policies in the emerging Vale of White Horse District Council-South Oxfordshire District Council Joint Local Plan and Design Guide
 - b. this council submitting a response to the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Regulation 18 consultation, and continued active engagement with the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 work
 - c. this council submitting a response to the government's consultation on their Ox-Cam Arc Vision and subsequent consultations on the Arc Spatial Framework
 - d. any other consultation that comes forward from neighbouring authorities, regions or the government that affects local and regional planning
2. officers ensure council's position is communicated effectively in print and social media.
3. the council Leader and relevant cabinet members continue to advocate for these issues to be addressed at meetings of the Oxfordshire Growth Board and the Ox-Cam Arc Leaders Group (which is attended by a Civil Servant from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)

C. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Neil Fawcett, Seconded by Councillor Max Thompson

Council notes:

- the Government's proposals to reform the English Planning system which will significantly reduce the public's right to influence planning applications.
- the significant and growing concerns being expressed about the proposals across local councils, MPs of all parties and across planning, architectural and environmental organisations.
- local residents' concerns about their reduced ability to object to building works under Permitted Development Rights which have been extended under this Government.
- The Local Government Association has identified that more than 1million homes that have planning permission that are not yet built, including a significant number in the Vale.
- that councils across England approve nine in ten planning applications.

- the need to deliver more genuinely affordable housing for sale and rent.

Council is concerned that:

- the proposed planning reforms are trying to solve the wrong problem. In the Vale we are already approving applications for housing at a higher rate than needed to hit government ambition of 300,000 new homes a year.
- the proposed planning reforms will significantly reduce public input into the planning process, leaving communities feeling that development is being done to them, not with them.
- the proposed Planning reforms will make it more difficult for councils to ensure the homes that are built are genuinely affordable for local people.

Council calls for the Government to:

- scrap the current proposals for planning reform.
- undertake a review of permitted development rights.
- maintain the right of local residents to engage and comment on individual planning applications.
- support the right of local people, through robust Neighbourhood and Local Plan processes, to influence how their communities develop.
- enable councils to set strong local planning policies to maximise protection for the environment and reduce carbon emissions.

and asks the Leader to write to the Secretary of State and our local Members of Parliament to this effect.

12. 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.

13. Affordable Housing and Oxfordshire Growth Deal - Heylo Housing (Pages 25 - 34)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 28 May 2021, considered the confidential report of the interim head of development and regeneration on an affordable housing scheme with Heylo Housing. Cabinet supported the scheme and recommended Council to approve the funding.

The confidential report considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 28 May and a summary of Cabinet's considerations are attached.

