

Council



Listening Learning Leading

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Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on

THURSDAY 18 JULY 2019 AT 7.00 PM

at

**THE FOUNTAIN CONFERENCE CENTRE, HOWBERY PARK, CROWMARSH
GIFFORD**

Alternative formats of this publication are available on request. These include large print, Braille, audio cassette or CD, and email. For this or any other special requirements (such as access facilities) please contact the officer named on this agenda. Please give as much notice as possible before the meeting.

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

MARGARET REED
Head of Legal and Democratic

Note: Please remember to sign the attendance register.

Agenda

Map

A map showing the location of Howbery Park is attached, as is a plan showing the location of the Fountain Conference Centre on the Howbery Park site.

1 Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence.

2 Minutes (Pages 12 - 21)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the annual meeting held on 16 May 2019 - 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 Goring Neighbourhood Plan (Pages 22 - 26)

At its meeting on 10 July 2019, Cabinet will consider the head of planning's report on the Goring Neighbourhood Development Plan.

A copy of the report is attached. Cabinet's recommendations will be circulated to all councillors.

8 South Oxfordshire Emerging Local Plan

At its meeting on 10 July 2019, Cabinet will consider a report on the South Oxfordshire Emerging Local Plan.

The report of the head of planning was circulated to all councillors and is available on the [council's website](#).

Cabinet's recommendations will be circulated to all councillors.

Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on 3 July 2019, agreed to recommend to Council that time is set aside at its meeting on 18 July for a confidential session to consider the legal advice on the Emerging Local Plan 2034 and the legal advice be included in the agenda pack. This will be circulated separately to all councillors.

9 Appointment of substitute members to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel

At the annual meeting of Council Councillor David Rouane was appointed as the council's representative on the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel. At its annual meeting the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel agreed to change the membership rules of the panel to enable all 18 Thames Valley local authorities to appoint a named substitute member to the panel.

The appointed substitute will receive notification of meetings and agenda, and could attend meetings of the Panel, in the absence of the appointed member.

Council is invited to appoint a substitute member.

10 Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Council is invited to appoint a representative and a named substitute to the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDATION: to appoint Councillor David Bretherton as the council's representative on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Anne-Marie Simpson as substitute.

11 Establishment of a Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (Pages 27 - 36)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic on the establishment of a Climate Emergency Advisory Committee – **report attached**.

12 Report of the leader of the council

To receive any updates from the leader of the council.

13 Questions on notice

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

1. Question from Councillor Mocky Khan to Councillor David Rouane, Cabinet member for housing and environment:

One of the key frustrations of residents is inappropriate and illegal parking. This is certainly the case for Didcot and other parts of South Oxfordshire. Didcot Town council passed a motion on Civil Parking Enforcement on 30 July 2018 and this council did too, on 19 July 2018. Can the Cabinet Member, please give an update on where we are on this? What actions have taken place, if any? Also, how can we accelerate this? Residents want and need an update.

2. Question from Councillor Jane Murphy to Councillor Sue Cooper, Leader of the council

Over the last year good governance has been a key priority for the council. Can the leader confirm that this is still as important to the administration and she is doing all she can to continue to lead this forward?

3. Question from Councillor Ken Arlett to Councillor David Rouane, Cabinet member for housing and environment

Henley has a limit of three hours parking with no return. Shop and office workers should be using the long stay car parks in Henley. When will South Oxfordshire District Council's car parks have machines that stop people feeding them or insist that the car park attendants ticket cars which extend their visits beyond three hours?

4. Question from Councillor Ken Arlett to Councillor David Rouane, Cabinet member for housing and environment

When is decriminalised parking enforcement going to happen and is Oxfordshire County Council in agreement?

5. Question from Councillor Ken Arlett to Councillor David Rouane, Cabinet member for housing and environment

In 1992 and 2016 plans were drawn up for another floor on the Kings Road Car Park, for some reason nothing happened, why? We now have another 12 shops being built next to the Kings Road car park but no extra spaces, why? South Oxfordshire District Council draw over £700,000 from their three main car parks in Henley and has some £6 million of CIL money for infrastructure. Now has to be the time to build the extra 95 spaces that were proposed in the 2016 drawings. When can this be started?

6. Question from Councillor Ken Arlett to Councillor Sue Cooper, Leader of the council

Is it now not time to allow the local ward councillors to take part in the debate and vote on applications in their ward at Planning Committee meetings? This works in other district councils. Can you confirm that this will be considered as part of the forthcoming review of the constitution?

7. Question from Councillor Ken Arlett to Councillor Robin Bennett, Cabinet member for economic development and regeneration

The Market Place Mews development is having a drastic effect on trade in the town due to only one entrance being used. There is no good reason why the other entrance cannot be reopened. Can this entrance be reopened?

8. Question from Councillor Ken Arlett to Councillor Leigh Rawlins, Cabinet member for planning

If Cabinet recommends option three to withdraw the Local Plan, what effect will this

have on neighbourhood plans and the four major towns?

9. Question from Councillor Ken Arlett to Councillor Leigh Rawlins, Cabinet member for planning

Where can Henley Town Council use the £800,000 for affordable housing from the McCarthy and Stone Development in Reading Road, Henley? At what date does this cease if it is not used?

10. Question from Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak to Councillor David Rouane, Cabinet member for housing and environment

South Oxfordshire District Council draw £700,000 of income from the Henley car parks. In the Greys Road Car Park, we have smelly stinking toilets that were due for refurbishment in 2012. Can we have a commitment for £100,000 of spend for this renovation or a date for this to be done?

11. Question from Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak to Councillor Leigh Rawlins, Cabinet member for planning

If the South Oxfordshire Local Plan is withdrawn and rewritten can I have a cost estimate of the amount of money, staff costs and time that it would take for the rewrite and submission?

12. Question from Councillor Ian White to Councillor to Councillor David Rouane, Cabinet member for housing and environment

The new low energy light bulbs are a great benefit in respect of reduced energy consumption, but their manufacture involves the use of chemicals that should be recycled. At present, the requirement is for these bulbs to be taken to the County Council's recycling centres for disposal and it is highly likely that residents are unaware of this requirement, disposing of their failed bulbs in the grey bins.

Will the Cabinet member consider a campaign to increase awareness of the need to recycle these light bulbs? Can the Administration look at more viable options for their collection, either at the kerb side or by arranging collection points with parish councils, as driving to the recycling centres to dispose of a few bulbs would be wasteful of energy, result in additional pollution and be unlikely to inspire co-operation from most residents?

13. Question from Councillor Lynn Lloyd to Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Cabinet member for community services

In previous years, South Oxfordshire District Council has supported its communities by way of Capital, Revenue and Councillor Grant Schemes, and funding was included in the 2019-2020 Budget inherited by the new Administration. Can the Cabinet member for community services confirm that this funding will continue for the current year?

14. Question from Councillor Lynn Lloyd to Councillor Andrea Powell, Cabinet member for corporate services

Can the Cabinet member for corporate services please confirm that the project to build the Council Offices at Crowmarsh is still on track?

15. Question from Councillor Celia Wilson to Councillor Leigh Rawlins, Cabinet member for planning

How do you propose that the interests of settlements of all sizes in South Oxfordshire may be championed against any speculative development which

benefits the developer rather than the community?

a) immediately?

and

b) in the wake of any delay introduced into the planning process by forthcoming decisions of South Oxfordshire District Council regarding the Emerging Local Plan 2034?

16. Question from Councillor David Bartholomew to Councillor David Turner, Cabinet member for finance

Now that he has been in post for two months could the Cabinet Member for Finance please confirm what steps he is taking to produce a balanced budget for 2020/21 without having to draw on reserves?

17. Question from Councillor Ian Snowdon to Councillor Sue Cooper, Leader of the council and Cabinet member for Didcot Town

Can the leader confirm that she intends to continue to encourage the extremely good working relationship that South Oxfordshire District Council has built up with Homes England in the last year and in particular with regards Didcot Garden Town?

18. Question from Councillor Anna Badcock to Councillor Sue Cooper, Leader of the council

What measures will the leader bring in to improve Air Quality Management Areas in South Oxfordshire and in what timescale?

14 Motions on notice

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

(1) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Sue Cooper, seconded by Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers

Council notes the economic and environmental importance of rail transport in this area and authorises the leader of the council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to request the acceleration of the delivery of rail projects of importance to South Oxfordshire. These include:

- Improvements necessary to Oxford City Station
- Reopening of Grove Station
- Upgrading of the route between Didcot and Oxford
- Reopening of the Cowley Branch line
- And any other initiatives which come forward in the current Oxfordshire Rail Connectivity Study

(2) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Robin Bennett, seconded by Councillor Kellie Hinton

Council notes that, increasingly, the only type of housing in our area that is genuinely affordable to young families, key workers, and the under-40s in general is social rent housing.

Council asks officers to prepare a report for Cabinet on ways to use council powers and resources to deliver more high-quality, environmentally sustainable, and genuinely affordable housing, at social rent or similar cost. This should include ways to keep such properties genuinely affordable in the long term and ways to release and access low-cost suitable land for projects such as – but not limited to - self-build, housing co-ops and community land trusts, as well as projects owned, let or operated by the council itself.

(3) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Robin Bennett, seconded by Councillor Alexandrine Kantor

Council notes that the UK Government, in tandem with the National Infrastructure Commission, has proposed the construction of a motorway-style **expressway between Oxford and Cambridge**. This new road will have significant adverse impacts on Oxfordshire: it will create a major source of air and noise pollution, destroy farmland and habitats, increase CO2 emissions - incompatible with the recent Climate Emergency declared by this council in April 2019 and bring more traffic onto the county's existing roads.

Actual and proposed consultation on the Expressway, and indeed on the Ox-Cam Arc proposal and associated major housing growth across the region, has been **wholly inadequate** and a proper Strategic Environmental Assessment should have taken place before this project left the drawing board. Instead, it has become the basis for regional planning with little democratic legitimacy.

Whilst this council supports partnership working and strategic planning and practical links with authorities across the region, it does not support the addition of a major road such as the Expressway in a time of climate emergency – as declared by this council on 11 April 2019.

Highways England's own analysis of the Expressway shows a benefit:cost ratio (BCR) in the range of 1.1 – 1.3, far lower than most other road schemes analysed by the Department for Transport in 2015, (2:1).

The Oxford 2050 plan process has thus far welcomed the perceived benefits of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. It is also mentioned as a factor in a wide range of council documents and plans, including LP2034. **This council asks that its new position on the Expressway is taken into account in all council documents that refer to it.**

The Expressway would cause major harm to the quality of life of residents if it passes through the district; **this council wishes to withdraw any assumed consent**, including any possibility that roads such as the HIF-funded Thames crossing, or the Stadhampton or Watlington bypasses, could later be used or expanded to form part of the Expressway or act as feeder roads for it.

This council fully supports an upgrade in the East-West rail route, with full electrification, as part of the Ox-Cam arc discussions. Such an upgrade must include inter-modal centres, along it and at both ends, to enable maximum use of rail for freight. Any road upgrades necessary to support the East-West rail route should connect to that route and be proportionate to the primacy of rail freight.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Oppose the Expressway project in all forms, including expansion of existing

or new roads in the district to form part of it.

- Support fully-electrified East-West Rail, including freight capacity and connections, and better public transport and active travel connections.
- Update all council documents to reflect this new position on the Expressway and related Arc development proposals.
- Continue to support partnership working, especially with regard to landscape-scale conservation and nature recovery networks.

(4) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Jo Robb, seconded by Councillor Mocky Khan

Council notes that the Oxfordshire Pension Fund, of which it is an employer, has more than £132m of workers' money – around 6% of its portfolio funds - invested in fossil fuel companies. These companies – which the London Stock Exchange now terms “non-renewables,” are the primary drivers of the climate crisis threatening our planet.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change last year warned that to avoid the most catastrophic consequences of warming, carbon emissions must fall to zero by 2050. Last month, the UK Parliament imposed a binding target of net zero by 2050 and in April, this Council declared a Climate Emergency.

Lloyds of London and Bank of England Governor Mark Carney have both warned that legislation necessary to limit warming combined with the development of renewables would likely result in the rapid “stranding” of fossil fuel assets, requiring large-scale asset write-downs. Fossil fuel companies face the additional peril of a potential wave of third-party liability claims brought by the victims of climate change including sovereign states.

A growing number of pension and investment funds have already announced plans to fully or partially divest from fossil fuels. Southwark Council, Islington Council, SOAS, the United Reform Church, The Church of England and the National Trust have already made significant divestment moves. Globally, the divestment movement has seen more than £6.3trillion leave the fossil fuel industry.

As a result, the fossil fuel industry is facing unprecedented financial, legal and regulatory headwinds.

The Oxfordshire Pension Fund has defended its continued investment in fossil fuels, arguing that to divest would mean losing its influence. This position is untenable. The very raison d'être of fossil fuel companies is the extraction and sale of carbon intensive energy. To the extent these companies are being stewarded towards renewable energy, this transition is happening too slowly. Research by Transition Pathway Initiative, an industry body, found that **none of the ten largest publicly listed oil and gas producers are on track to achieve net zero emissions by 2050**. None are on track to be aligned with 2 degrees or less of warming by 2050.

The message of divestment is not that fossil fuel companies are evil. But their business threatens our planet and its most vulnerable inhabitants through droughts, heat waves, crop failures, floods, and rising sea levels.

As one of the Oxfordshire LGPS employers, South Oxfordshire District Council calls on

the Oxfordshire Pension Fund Committee to act in line with South Oxfordshire and the UK's declaration of Climate Emergency and in prudent exercise of its fiduciary duties by divesting its investment in an industry whose long-term risk profile in the current political and environmental climate is unacceptably high.

Council:

- 1) calls on the Oxfordshire Pension Fund to follow the lead of Councils, sovereign wealth funds and other pension and investment funds around the world to divest from non-renewable energy companies whose main purpose is the exploration and/or extraction of fossil fuels;
- 2) calls on the Oxfordshire Pension Fund to explore reinvestment of its funds into appropriate renewable energy companies at the earliest opportunity;
- 3) asks the Oxfordshire Pension Fund to acknowledge that shareholder engagement has failed to bring about the pace of change required to limit catastrophic global warming.

15 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 paragraphs 1-7 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.

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic