

Council



Listening Learning Leading

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Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on

THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 2019 AT 6.00 PM

at

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

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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 13 - 29)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 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 Local Plan 2034: options to progress (Pages 30 - 55)

At its meeting on 3 October Cabinet will consider a report on the options to progress the Local Plan 2034. The report and appendices, which Cabinet will consider at its meeting, were circulated to all councillors. A revised Cabinet report is attached.

The Scrutiny Committee considered the report at its meeting on 1 October. Following a debate on the Local Plan options a motion was put forward to support option A in the report – to allow the plan to continue to examination. The motion was not carried. The committee did not make any recommendations to Cabinet.

Cabinet's recommendations will be circulated to all councillors.

8 Recommendations from Cabinet (Climate Change Advisory Committee)

At its meeting on 8 October Cabinet will consider the recommendations of the Climate Change Advisory Committee on options for how the council could respond to the climate emergency declaration. Any recommendations to Council will be circulated following the Cabinet meeting.

9 Extension of terms of office of independent persons to advise on code of conduct issues (Pages 56 - 58)

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.

10 Climate Emergency Advisory Committee - appointment of substitute

At its meeting on 18 July Council established a Climate Emergency Advisory Committee and appointed members and substitutes to it. In doing so Council appointed Councillor Hewerdine, a non-group councillor, to the committee. The terms of reference for the committee provide for the appointment of the same number of preferred substitutes in respect of each political group as that group holds ordinary seats on the committee. There is no provision for the appointment of a substitute for a non-group councillor.

To ensure there is provision for an alternative councillor to attend meetings of the committee in the absence of Councillor Hewerdine, Council is requested to appoint Councillor Gillespie, a non-group councillor, as the named substitute.

RECOMMENDATION: to appoint Councillor Gillespie as the substitute for Councillor Hewerdine on the Climate Emergency Advisory Committee.

11 Constitution Review Task Group

Council is invited to agree the establishment of a joint Constitution Review Task Group with Vale of White Horse District Council to undertake a review of the constitution and make recommendations to Council.

Officers propose that the task group comprises 10 councillors with five from South Oxfordshire and five from Vale of White Horse. Officers propose that each political group from South Oxfordshire is entitled to appoint one member with Vale of White Horse membership comprising three Liberal Democrats and two Conservatives.

RECOMMENDATION: That Council

1. establishes a joint Constitution Review Task Group with Vale of White Horse

- District Council comprising five councillors from each council;
2. allocates a seat to each political group and appoints councillors as set out in the schedule circulated at the meeting;
 3. agrees that councillors from the same political group on the council may substitute for this council's appointed representatives.

12 Report of the leader of the council

13 Questions on notice

To receive the following questions from councillors in accordance with Council procedure rule 33:

1. Question from Councillor Mocky Khan to Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Cabinet member for community services

There are constant rumours that Didcot Wave is going to be closing, can the Cabinet member confirm what the situation is? Also, there are complaints regards the maintenance and appearance of the building and facilities. What is the work schedule, budget and timings?

2. Question from Councillor Mocky Khan to Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Cabinet member for community services

Cornerstone in Didcot is a flagship building for culture in South Oxfordshire. I am concerned to hear that the roof is leaking and this has been the case for nearly four years. Can the Cabinet member provide an update and what is happening to resolve this issue?

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

In the local plan documents there are options A, B and C. Can I please have a cost estimate for each of these options?

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

Oxfordshire County Council has already spent £1,000,000 developing the HIF/Growth Deal bid. This is Oxfordshire residents' money. If the SODC local plan is withdrawn and the Growth Deal is lost, is South Oxfordshire District Council going to repay this £1,000,000 to OCC?

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

We thank Councillors Rouane and Cooper for visiting Henley to look at our Greys Road public toilets. I think they agreed that they were in a shocking state. SODC derives £700,000 per annum from the Henley car parks which must be recycled back into car parks and car parking. Can we ask that a budget line of £120,000 be put into the next budget to ensure that this toilet is thoroughly refurbished?

Please see below recent photographs showing the shocking state of the toilets.





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

Permitted Development Rights (PDR's) government policy, is having a drastic effect on the loss of offices in Henley into flats, I would imagine the same applies across South Oxfordshire. The loss of offices within the town centre also has a knock-on effect to local traders. This government policy may be good for big cities, but it is doing nothing for smaller towns. Other than taking out an Article 4 policy, how does the Cabinet member think this council can address the problem?

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

Since the demise of traffic wardens and SODC's decision to cut funding for PCSO's, there is no one to enforce illegal parking in our towns and villages, this is causing

immense problems in town centres and residential roads. SODC has agreed to look into the feasibility of introducing a civil parking enforcement scheme being devolved down from OCC to SODC. As no councillors are involved at present with the feasibility study, I ask that one councillor from at least the four major towns is included in the process?

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

On Friday 2 August, myself and Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak met with SODC's Leader Councillor Sue Cooper and Cabinet member Councillor David Rouane in Henley-on-Thames to look at car parking. By mid-day the three central car parks were at capacity. The two out of town car parks at the Rugby Club and the Railway Station are now almost at capacity, and there are numerous reasons for this. In the spring of 2020, there will be 12 new shops opening just off the Kings Road car park, but there is no more car parking to cater for these shops. It has been proposed by SODC in the past that a second floor be built on the Kings Road Car Park. Will SODC work with Henley Town Council, to come up with a scheme for more car parking in the Kings Road car park that will then improve the footfall before we have more shops closing?

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

What strides have SODC officers made over the past three months to solve the problem of feeding the parking machines in Henley from the maximum three hours limit?

14 Motions on notice

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

- (1) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Alexandrine Kantor, seconded by Councillor Anne-Marie Simpson:

Council notes that EU nationals are part of our shared communities. They are our husbands, wives, parents, friends and colleagues. They are an integral part of a vibrant and thriving South Oxfordshire.

Since 2016 EU nationals were promised again and again that "there will be no change for EU citizens already lawfully resident in the UK and [...] will be treated no less favourably as they are at present".

After three years of living in limbo, their homes and livelihoods are in danger of being threatened by the further uncertainty brought about by the prospect of an even more chaotic no-deal Brexit.

According to the Home Office's July statistics, only a third of EU nationals have applied for the Settled Status and 42% of them have been granted the inferior Pre-Settled status leading them to reapply for the Settled status later on. There is no possibility of knowing how many EU nationals need to apply, leaving vulnerable and unaware EU nationals left at risk of becoming unlawful residents the mercy of the Home Office's "Hostile Environment". Lack of clarity regarding differentiating between EU citizens arriving before and after the UK's exit from the EU could lead

to discrimination in the labour market and may prevent many from accessing the services that they are entitled to.

Another Windrush-like scandal could be unfolding right before the eyes of this Council and we mustn't be passive observers to it.

Therefore, the Council asks that:

1. Officers report on how the Council can mitigate adverse impacts on the rights of EU nationals (including but not limited to advising on what the Council can do to help landlords and employers to be better informed about immigration status and therefore avoid potential discrimination against EU nationals)
2. The Leader of the Council writes to EU citizens resident in the district giving advice on applying for Settled Status. This notice shall inform EU citizens of any potential consequences of not applying for the EU Settlement scheme.
3. The Leader of the Council writes to the Home Secretary seeking clarification and suggesting improvements for the European Settlement scheme, which include:
 - Providing physical proof of Settled status that can be used to access services
 - Confirming that there will be no changes to the rights of settled EU citizens that they currently have by ratifying the Immigration Bill as primary legislation before the exit day
 - Replacing the current European Settlement scheme with a registration scheme without a deadline where EU citizens are considered lawful by default and can request a proof of immigration status only when they are asked to demonstrate it.

(2) Motion to be proposed by Councillor David Bartholomew, seconded by Councillor Anna Badcock:

Reading Borough Council is proposing to build a vast new bridge over the Thames at Caversham to alleviate Reading's traffic problems. It is included in their Draft Local Plan as a top transport priority. The bridge would take off at the Thames Valley business park near Reading and land near the Playhatch roundabout in Oxfordshire. The only onwards option for traffic would be through the congested streets of Henley or along the narrow B481 country road through Oxfordshire villages.

To date, Reading and other Berkshire councils that are supporting the scheme have focused almost entirely on the costs of building the bridge and the benefits it will bring to Reading. While they recognise that the bridge would have a substantial impact on the Oxfordshire road network, the Berkshire councils blithely state these will be dealt with by unspecified and uncoded 'mitigation measures'.

This council calls on the Leader to write to the leaders of Reading Borough Council, Wokingham Borough Council and Bracknell Forest Council, together with MPs John Howell, John Redwood, Matt Rodda and Theresa May, stating that:

a) In the context of the Climate Emergency a car-based solution to a car-based problem that would pour thousands of cars and HGVs into Oxfordshire is totally inappropriate and should a new bridge be built it should be restricted to public

transport, cyclists and pedestrians;

b) Notwithstanding the above, if a car-based solution is pursued, the proposed bridge and necessary mitigation measures (i.e. improvements to the Oxfordshire road network) are not considered as two separate projects, but as one single project in order that the benefits, disadvantages and costs of the complete scheme can be holistically assessed.

(3) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Sue Roberts, seconded by Councillor Simon Hewerdine:

On 11 April 2019, South Oxfordshire District Council declared a Climate Emergency, noting that the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report states that we had just 12 years to act. Council resolved that it needs to commit to aggressive reduction targets and carbon neutrality as quickly as possible.

Since then, there has been a continual onslaught of extreme weather events that further highlight the climate emergency. In July, the European heat wave killed 868 in France, and set a new temperature high for the UK of 38.5°C. There were unprecedented wildfires in the Arctic. In September, Hurricane Dorian killed 50 in the Bahamas and left 70,000 homeless. More generally, we have severe ice melting at the poles, and sea level rise at the upper end of forecasts.

In September, Professor Sir David King, former Chief Scientist for the UK, said the world had changed faster than predicted by the IPCC. Whereas mean global temperature rises have matched predictions, individual extreme weather events have accelerated in intensity and frequency. In this grave situation, he says, the UK should aim to cut greenhouse gas emissions to almost zero, by 2040 rather than 2050.

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) has set up a Climate Emergency Advisory Committee (CEAC). At its first official meeting on the 19th September it recommended the very challenging targets proposed here. It should be noted that other councils have set targets for their districts and cities to reach net zero-carbon by 2030, some even earlier. The Labour Party at its recent conference has also set a 2030 net zero-carbon target for the country.

Officers prepared options for CEAC to consider, including a focus only on Council operations; extending this to taking action on net zero-carbon over district-actives where Council has responsibilities, whilst responding reactively wherever possible to new initiatives for the district; and finally, for full net zero-carbon for the whole district. The cross-party committee unanimously agreed to a fully net zero-carbon district by 2030, with Council, in its own operations, to be net zero-carbon by 2025.

These targets are premised on the fact that SODC should be in a new building by 2025, and that it can influence outsourced contractors to provide us with a net zero-carbon supply chain. The aim for a net-zero carbon total district is to ensure that Council has a true target in the sense that it knows what it is that it is aiming to get to zero-carbon, and to ensure that its actions are more than purely reactive; rather, Council shall set up an ambitious new programme working with other actors to achieve its target.

Council resolves to:

Agree the unanimous recommendations of its cross-party Climate Emergency Advisory Committee to:

- Aim to reach net-zero carbon emissions across all of the operations of South Oxfordshire District Council by the target year of 2025
- Aim to reach net-zero carbon emissions for the whole District of South Oxfordshire by 2030

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 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.

16 New office accommodation - design, sustainability and building specification (Pages 59 - 115)

At its meeting on 8 October Cabinet will consider a confidential report on the progress of the new council office building and car park programme at the council's Crowmarsh Gifford site which asks Cabinet to determine the design, sustainability and building specification for the building and car park.

The confidential report, which Cabinet will consider at its meeting, is **attached**.

The Climate Emergency Advisory Committee considered the report at its meeting on 19 September. The views and recommendations of the committee will be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 8 October.

The Cabinet recommendations will be circulated to all councillors following the Cabinet meeting on 8 October.

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic