

Council



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Date: 5 February 2020

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Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 6.00 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.

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 11 - 21)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the meeting held on 19 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 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 Treasury management mid-year monitoring report 2019/20 (Pages 22 - 36)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 30 January 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 committee also supported the changes to the counterparty limits.

The report of the interim head of finance, which Cabinet considered on 30 January 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;
2. approve the interim head of finance's report to Cabinet on 30 January 2020; and
3. agree the changes to the counterparty limits identified in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the interim head of finance's report.

8 Treasury management and investment strategy 2020/21
(Pages 37 - 69)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 30 January 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 30 January 2020, is **attached**.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL to:

1. approve the treasury management strategy 2020/21, set out in appendix A to the interim head of finance's report to Cabinet on 30 January 2020;
2. approve the prudential indicators and limits for 2020/21 to 2022/23, as set out in appendix A to the interim 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 interim head of finance's report, and the lending criteria detailed in table 5 to that report.

9 Capital strategy 2020/21 to 2029/30 (Pages 70 - 81)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 30 January 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 30 January 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 30 January 2020.

10 Revenue Budget 2020/21 and Capital Programme to 2024/25

Cabinet, at its meeting on 30 January 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, has been circulated to all councillors. Please bring this to the Council meeting.

At its meeting Cabinet resolved the following:

- (a) that Cabinet is minded to adopt recommendation 1 and minded to recommend Council to adopt recommendation 2, as set out in the interim head of finance's report to Cabinet on 30 January 2020, subject to a reduction from £500,000 to £410,000 in recommendation 2(e) by halving the councillor grants budget from £180,000 to £90,000;
- (b) that Cabinet invites Scrutiny Committee's comments on (a) above; and
- (c) that Cabinet reconsiders the interim head of finance's budget report at a Cabinet meeting on 11 February 2020 at 9.30am and makes recommendations to Council on 13 February 2020.

At its meeting on 4 February the Scrutiny Committee resolved to recommend Cabinet to allocate £500,000 to fund the Communities Capital and Revenue Grant Scheme and not to half the councillor grants budget from £180,000 to £ £90,000.

The committee did not support Cabinet's minded decision to maintain car park fees and charges at current levels pending a review of fees and charges later in the year.

Cabinet's recommendations will be circulated to all councillors following the meeting on 11 February 2020.

11 Oxfordshire Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure Steering Group

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) is 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 South Oxfordshire District Council's representative should be a member of the committee. The committee agreed to recommend Council to appoint Councillor Caroline Newton as the council's representative.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: to

1. appoint Councillor Caroline Newton 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.

12 Pay policy statement 2020/21 (Pages 82 - 85)

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**.

13 Report of the leader of the council

To receive any updates from the leader of the council.

14 Questions on notice

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

1. Question from Councillor Anna Badcock to Councillor Pieter-Paul Barker, Cabinet member for partnership and insight

“Can you detail the timescales for delivering against the climate emergency motion that was carried by the Conservative led Council in April 2019”?

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

“Over the past six months we have had on going complaints from members of the public, with the cleaning of the three toilet blocks in Henley. These complaints have all been serialised in the local Henley Standard.

Can the Cabinet Member please explain why this contract has been let for another nine months to the same contractor, when they are unable to clean the toilets to an acceptable standard”?

3. Question from Councillor Celia Wilson to Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Cabinet member for community services

Can you give assurances that any review of the Didcot Cornerstone Arts Centre will be:

- a) open and transparent;
- b) involve all concerned people including the population and elected representatives of Didcot; and
- c) allow enough time for remedies to the difficulties to be put in place?

15 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 Sam Casey-Rerhaye:

Council notes the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of Antisemitism is the most widely accepted and recognized definition of anti-Jewish racism. It states that: Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of Antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

Council notes the All Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims (APPG) definition of Islamophobia: Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness.

Council notes that, by using these definitions, it helps to understand, identify, and tackle Antisemitism and Islamophobia.

Council holds the right to freedom of speech and freedom of religion as fundamentals but freedom of speech is not an unlimited right, and should not be used to advocate racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence.

Council resolves to:

- condemn all hate crimes and deplore the rise in hate crimes against members of the Jewish and Muslim communities in Britain.
- condemn all inflammatory rhetoric in political discourse: including antisemitic and islamophobic tropes used by politicians and public servants.
- adopt the IHRA definition of Antisemitism in full and without amendment.
- adopt the APPG definition of Islamophobia in full and without amendment.
- ask officers to update this council's equality policies to this effect.

- (2) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Anne-Marie Simpson, seconded by Councillor Victoria Haval:

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 PHV 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.
- (3) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Kate Gregory, seconded by Councillor Ken Arlett:

Council notes the views of the Local Government Association and the Royal Town Planning Institute, who recognise that problems have been caused by the 2013

deregulation of the Planning System which allows offices to be converted into homes without planning permission. Currently, developers do not have to contribute towards affordable Social Housing or local infrastructure and there is no ability to consider whether the development provides suitable levels of internal or external amenity space, privacy, sunlight, daylight or outlook.

Council asks the leader of the council to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to call for a review of the wide-ranging impacts of permitted development rights which allow change of use into residential homes.

16 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.

17 Corporate services contract

Cabinet, at its meeting on 11 February 2020, will consider a confidential report on the corporate services contract.

The report of the acting deputy chief executive – partnership and planning, which Cabinet will consider on 11 February 2020, has been circulated to all councillors.

Cabinet's recommendations will be circulated to all councillors prior to the Council meeting.

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic