

Council



Listening Learning Leading

Contact Officer: Steven Corrigan

Tel: 07717 274704

E-mail: steven.corrigan@southoxon.gov.uk

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Website: www.southoxon.gov.uk

Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on

THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER 2022 AT 6.00 PM

at

DIDCOT CIVIC HALL, BRITWELL ROAD, DIDCOT, OX11 7JN

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Patrick Arran
Head of Legal and Democratic

Note: Please remember to sign the attendance register.

Agenda

1 Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence.

2 Minutes (Pages 7 - 21)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes (public and confidential) of the meeting held on 14 July 2022 and the special Council meeting held on 8 September 2022.

3 Declarations of interest

To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and non-registrable interests or any conflicts of interest 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 Treasury outturn 2021/22 (Pages 22 - 42)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 29 September, considered the report of the head of finance on the outturn performance of the treasury management function for the financial year 2021/22.

The report of the head of finance, which the Joint Audit and Governance Committee considered on 27 September 2022 and Cabinet considered on 29 September, is **attached**.

RECOMMENDATION: to

1. approve the treasury management outturn report for 2021/22;
2. approve the actual 2021/22 prudential indicators within the report.

8 Adoption of powers from Oxfordshire County Council under Land Drainage Act (Pages 43 - 49)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 29 September, considered the report of the head of development and corporate landlord on a request from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) for the district council to act as an agent of the county council in the discharge of delegated functions for the operation and management of the powers and responsibilities of the lead local flood authority (LLFA) under Sections 19, 23, 24 and 25 of the 1991 Land Drainage Act.

The report of the head of head of development and corporate landlord, which Cabinet considered, is **attached**.

Cabinet resolved to:

- (a) support the request from Oxfordshire County Council for South Oxfordshire to adopt powers under the Land Drainage Act, as set out in paragraph 8 of the head of development and corporate landlord's report to Cabinet on 29 September 2022;
- (b) subject to Council approving the adoption of powers in (c) below, that Cabinet authorises the head of development and corporate landlord, in consultation with the head of legal and democratic, to negotiate and finalise the agreement with Oxfordshire County Council and enter into agreement to adopt the powers from Oxfordshire County Council; and

RECOMMENDATION: to approve the adoption of powers under an agency agreement with Oxfordshire County Council.

9 Woodcote Neighbourhood Development Plan Review (Pages 50 - 54)

To consider the recommendations of the Cabinet member for planning, made on 30 September 2022, regarding the neighbourhood plan for Woodcote following the referendum held on 29 September 2022.

The Individual Cabinet Member Decision is attached.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: to

1. make the Woodcote Neighbourhood Development Plan Review so that it continues to be part of the council's development plan; and
2. authorise the head of policy and programmes, in consultation with the Cabinet member for planning, and in agreement with the Qualifying Body, Woodcote Parish Council, to correct any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.

10 Cholsey Neighbourhood Development Plan Review (Pages 55 - 86)

To consider the recommendations of the Leader of the council, made on 29 September 2022, regarding the neighbourhood plan for Cholsey.

The Individual Cabinet Member Decision is attached.

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: to

1. make the Cholsey Neighbourhood Development Plan Review with the modifications specified in the Examiner's report; and
2. authorise the head of policy and programmes, in consultation with the Cabinet member for planning, and in agreement with the Qualifying Body, Cholsey Parish Council, to correct any spelling, grammatical, typographical or factual errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.

11 Review of the council's constitution (Pages 87 - 187)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic on proposed changes to the council's constitution.

12 Report of the leader of the council

To receive the report of Councillor David Rouane, Leader of the council.

13 Questions on notice

No questions have been submitted from councillors in accordance with Council procedure rule 33.

14 Motions on notice

To consider motions from councillors in accordance with Council procedure rule 39.

- (1) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Khan, seconded by Councillor Macdonald:

Council supports in principal that the community of Great Western Park should reside in one parish within one district council area.

Council notes:

1. that the community of Great Western Park is currently split between those living in Didcot parish within South Oxfordshire District Council and those living in Harwell parish within Vale of White Horse District Council;
2. that a request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a review of the boundaries of principal council areas, by means of

Principal Area Boundary Review (PABR), must be made by all the principal councils concerned, in this case South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils;

3. that any final decision on such a request would require consideration of a report from the chief executive covering the benefits of the proposal, the financial implications and evidence of support from the local community.

Council resolves to request the chief executive to ask the Leader of Vale of White Horse if an item can be included on the next Council agenda for Vale of White Horse District Council to seek views on whether it would support, in principal, a request to the LGBCE for a PABR of the boundary between South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils to address the current geographical division of the community within Great Western Park.

- (2) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Robin Bennett, seconded by Councillor Leigh Rawlins:

This council considers that the UK government's so-called '[investment zones](#)', proposed by the Chancellor in his recent 'mini-budget', are a disaster in the making, for the environment, local communities, democracy and public finances.

Council notes that the similar '[enterprise zones](#)' introduced in 2011 only generated about one quarter of the forecast jobs and that a significant part of those were from existing companies moving into the zones.

Under the proposals, local consultations and environmental regulations have been presented as 'burdensome requirements'. Development which 'responds to the market' in these zones is required to be additional to the sites already set out in Local Plans, which are carefully planned to respond to local needs and to respect the local environment. Investment zones will be able to 'relax' well-evidenced policy requirements that have been consulted on and approved by local councillors. Those policies are there for a reason.

It appears that EU-based environmental regulations such as [Habitat Regulation Assessments](#) will be scrapped in these zones, with no clarity as to how they will be replaced.

Instead of treating nature protection as something that is in the way of growth, the environment should be at the heart of decision-making, given that it is the foundation of all economic prosperity.

Oxfordshire's 6 councils have already agreed a [Strategic Vision](#) for long-term sustainable development; adopting a get rich quick scheme devised by Right-wing think tanks is not in keeping with that vision.

Council asks the Leader to write to DLUHC and Oxfordshire County Council to say that South Oxfordshire is already a key contributor to the wider UK economy and that democratic local plans remain the best vehicle to continue to deliver that contribution. Responding to the market alone is not enough: South Oxfordshire's residents need to be heard, not sidelined, and our environment respected.

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 Section 100A and 100I of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that:

- (i) It is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A, and
- (ii) the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

16 Application for Grant Funding by Soha Limited - Cullum House, Wheatley (Pages 188 - 198)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 29 September 2022, considered the confidential report of the head of environment and housing on the provision of grant funding using commuted sums held by the council, towards an affordable housing project being delivered by Soha Ltd, a Registered Provider of affordable housing.

Cabinet's recommendations were circulated to all councillors on 30 September 2022.

Patrick Arran
Head of Legal and Democratic