

Council



Listening Learning Leading

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Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on

THURSDAY 25 MARCH 2021 AT 6.00 PM

As a

VIRTUAL MEETING

To watch this virtual meeting, click [here](#).

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M Reed'.

MARGARET REED
Head of Legal and Democratic

Agenda

1 Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence.

2 Minutes (Pages 10 - 32)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Council minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 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 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 A Joint Local Plan (Pages 33 - 60)

At its meeting on 18 March 2021 Cabinet will consider a report on the case for preparing a Joint Local Plan, instead of separate local plans for South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils. The report of the head of planning which Cabinet will consider on 18 March is attached.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors following the Cabinet meeting.

8 Section 106 request - Sonning Common Parish Council (Pages 61 - 65)

At its meeting on 18 March 2021 Cabinet will consider a report on a request from Sonning Common Parish Council to release funds from two S106 contributions. The funding would go towards the ground levelling, creating public access and the installation of fence along the western boundary at the Memorial Hall Field, Reade's Lane, Sonning Common.

The report of the acting deputy chief executive - place which Cabinet will consider on 18 March is attached.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors following the Cabinet meeting.

9 Section 106 request - Thame Town Council (Pages 66 - 76)

At its meeting on 18 March 2021 Cabinet will consider a report on a request from Thame Town Council to release funds from eight S106 contributions. The funding would replace an existing grass pitch with a new full-size (100m x 64m) Floodlit 3G Football Turf Pitch (FTP) with pitch markings to accommodate a variety of football pitches, mini soccer pitches and training areas at The ASM Stadium, Meadow View Park, Thame.

The report of the acting deputy chief executive - place which Cabinet will consider on 18 March is attached.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors following the Cabinet meeting.

10 Further extension of term of office of independent persons for code of conduct matters (Pages 77 - 79)

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.

11 Report of the leader of the council

To receive the report of the leader of the council.

12 Questions on notice

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

A. Question from Councillor Gillespie to Councillor Simpson, Cabinet member for planning

Master planning for Land North of Bayswater Brook has started. The developers say that they are awaiting guidance from South Oxfordshire District Council to enable them to advance their traffic modelling. The Planning Inspector recommended a “Low Car” development:

What is South Oxfordshire District Council’s Planning Department’s vision for a Low Car development? How can this ensure that current unsustainable levels of traffic and associated environmental damage will be mitigated?

B. Question from Councillor Arlett to Councillor Bennett, Cabinet member for economic development and regeneration

A paper went to Cabinet on 1 October 2020 on 'Affordable Housing S 106, commuted sums South' - over 5 months ago. The paper stated that bids could be made for Affordable Housing Schemes from 1 April 2021 with a closing date of 30 June 2021.

Why are these dates now not being adhered to, as SODC have £3.883 million just sitting in an account ready to invest in much needed affordable housing?

13 Motions on notice

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

A. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Dragonetti, seconded by Councillor Robb:

Council recognises the importance of a high-quality, beautiful natural environment for current and future residents of our rural District, and the negative impact that high voltage power lines can have on visual amenity.

Council also acknowledges the importance of landscape beauty to the setting of the historic city of Oxford.

Council identifies that the economic benefit of providing beautiful environments for housing development provides a long lasting benefit that enhances the long term value of a location, attracting the workforce needed to sustain the growth of the local economy.

Three of the strategic sites allocated in South Oxfordshire's Local Plan 2035 are overhung by high voltage power lines. Grenoble Road, Culham and Northfield.

This Council will:

1. Work with partners including National Grid, electricity providers, developers, landowners, and other local authorities, to explore all options including financing options for the undergrounding of all high voltage overhead powerlines over the strategic sites in the Local Plan 2035, with a view to requiring that these sites have active plans for the removal of overhead high voltage power lines before 2040.
2. Have, as a long-term ambition by 2050, the undergrounding of the existing 400kv line that bisects the Ladygrove Estates in Didcot.

B. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Robb, seconded by Councillor Gillespie:

Council notes the growing body of evidence demonstrating the harmful impacts of light pollution on human health and sleep, biodiversity and carbon emissions. A literature review from Nature magazine in 2018 concludes that: "light at night is exerting pervasive, long term stress on ecosystems, from coasts to farmland to

urban waterways, many of which are already suffering from other, more well-known forms of pollution”

Light pollution is not only damaging our physical and mental health, it is also harming plants, insects and nocturnal animals and is eroding the most primal of connections: the deep sense of awe and wonder we experience at the sight of a starry sky.

Council acknowledges the work of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Dark Skies and welcomes its recommendations. www.appgdarkskies.co.uk

Council recognises that Oxfordshire County Council controls lighting schemes on adopted highways.

This Council will:

1. Ensure that limiting light pollution and preserving dark skies are key priorities for planning policies and design guides, including master-planning of sites.
2. Work with Neighbourhood Planning groups to encourage the implementation of dark sky friendly lighting policies in Neighbourhood Plans.
3. Encourage the incorporation of dark sky friendly lighting schemes and avoid unnecessary lighting for all new development.
4. Write to MPs and government calling for the APPG’s ten recommendations on dark skies to be implemented through new legislation and reform of the planning system. These recommendations include reform of the NPPF to make extensive and specific reference to control of obtrusive light and to introduce strict regulation of exterior lighting, setting standards for brightness, colour and temperature of all lighting and empowering local authorities to stop nuisance lighting.
5. Work proactively with partners, Oxfordshire County Council as Highway Authority and others, to highlight the importance of dark skies, the need to limit the impact of lighting and to encourage policies to reflect best practice in lighting design.
6. Use our communications channels to increase understanding among residents and businesses of the importance of dark skies and limiting light pollution.

C. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Dragonetti, seconded by Councillor Gillespie:

This council supports the local network of pubs in the district, and will use its powers to ensure that pubs continue to be able to provide for the local community, in accordance with Local Plan Policy CF1, which notes that the council will support communities in protecting, enhancing and delivering community and recreation facilities in their towns and villages.

With pubs under continual threat of closure and conversion, where there is strong community support evidenced by submission of a nomination as an Asset of Community Value or opposition to a planning application for change of use, the council will use all its available powers, where appropriate, to support communities in their efforts to retain pubs for the benefit of both local community and the whole

district.

D. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Bennett, seconded by Councillor Levy:

Council notes that:

The pandemic has had profound effects on our district's economic, social and physical wellbeing.

Building on the themes in the adopted Corporate Plan, there is an opportunity for Council to support a green recovery and benefit our residents and businesses in a holistic way.

'Community wealth-building' is an approach being used in the public sector across the UK, with 'the Preston model' perhaps being the most well-known example.

The five core principles of community wealth-building are considered to be:

- Plural ownership of the economy.
- Making financial power work for local places.
- Fair employment practices and just labour markets.
- Progressive procurement of goods and services.
- Socially productive use of land and property.

Council asks officers to explore how the concepts of 'community wealth-building' can be applied to the South Oxfordshire context, with particular reference to:

- The role procurement by anchor institutions could play in local economic recovery
- The council's land, investment and property policies
- Place-specific actions to enhance community resilience

E. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Rouane:

Council Notes:

- As specified in the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2035 the district council has planned for 30,056 new homes in the period 2011-2035, of which 16,360 have already been built.
- The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group is responsible for ensuring health provision for our growing population is provided.
- If section 106 contributions from developers agreed by the District Council are not used by the CCG within a set time, the money could be paid back to the developer, which would result in an under-provision of health care in our communities.
- Despite significant effort by council officers and local health professionals, the

current system is preventing the provision of health services that local people need and deserve.

- Our planning service and planning committee are therefore under pressure to approve new housing without plans for healthcare in place.

Council Believes:

- This council has an important role in improving the health and wellbeing of our residents.
- Primary health provision should be planned based on population growth and vision for health care provision in the district.
- That sufficient infrastructure such as transport, health and education should be provided alongside, and preferably ahead of new housing development.
- The current national system for ensuring health infrastructure is provided, through Clinical Commissioning Groups, is not working.

Council requests:

1. Officers continue to work with Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group contacts to ensure sufficient provision is made for primary care services for growth areas such as Didcot, Wallingford and other location under pressure.

2. The Council leader write to Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) requesting a meeting to discuss:

- Better working relationships between the two organisations.
- Ensuring OCCG take a more pro-active approach to our planning process and respond to planning application consultations in a timely and ongoing basis to support the work of our planning department and our Infrastructure and development team.
- How the OCCG can engage more proactively with the planning authority to better plan healthcare for strategic sites housing sites in South Oxfordshire linked to the council's corporate plan theme of "Improved economic and community well-being".
- To understand how OCCG uses population forecasts to plan primary healthcare and what its plans are for Oxfordshire
- To discuss the particular cases of Wallingford and Didcot

3. The Council Leader write to the Ministers for Health and MHCLG to:

- explain the difficulties local planning authorities have to obtain information and commitment to deliver health services from OCCG.
- press the need for whatever structure replaces Clinical Commissioning groups as part of the health reform has working with local planning authorities and its heart

(recognising that this may be difficult if they are being reorganised).

· ask what government are doing to increase the number of GPs and other health staff and funding to keep up with number of homes.

F. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Gregory, seconded by Councillor Casey-Rerhaye:

This Council recognises that financial security is critical to a stable and thriving society. Yet, too many people are without enough money to meet their basic needs. Universal Basic Income (UBI) is an opportunity to revolutionise a welfare system that is no longer fit for purpose.

UBI would provide every adult (regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status) with a fixed, regular and unconditional income to relieve some of the financial pressures facing households. It is a monthly grant sufficient to contribute to the basic needs of food, shelter and education. It is a fair way of eliminating poverty, guaranteeing a minimum standard of living, and improving well-being. It helps the local economy by providing stability and security; allowing people to thrive rather than just survive.

There have been several trials of basic income internationally and most recently in Finland. Results have been encouraging. Spain is rolling it out as part of their COVID-19 response measures.

Council requests:

1. The leader of the council write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, South Oxfordshire Members of Parliament and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions requesting the UK Government undertakes pilot studies for the Universal Basic Income, and that South Oxfordshire be included in any pilot.
2. That such pilot studies gather evidence of the effectiveness of a Universal Basic Income on reducing inequality, disadvantage and poverty.
3. That the Leader sends a copy of any responses from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, South Oxfordshire Members of Parliament and the Secretary of State for Work and Pension to all councillors as and when replies are received.

G. Motion to be proposed by Councillor Filipova-Rivers, seconded by Councillor Kantor:

This council recognises the status of Neurodiversity, and how it impacts on many in our society. This Council is committed, through its Equality and Diversity policies and procedures, and its Corporate Plan, to delivering outcomes for all in a fair and inclusive way. This Council notes that it is already certificated as a Disability Confident Employer and is further committed to continuing its positive work in this area.

In light of the above, Council agrees:

To develop an Action Plan on Neurodiversity which sits within the Inclusion and

Diversity Strategy and might include the following:

- Using best practice from Autism charities and Neurodiversity partnerships, recruitment and HR practices for supporting neurodivergent candidates and employees
- Developing a needs assessment process specific to neurodivergence so reasonable adjustments can be made
- Putting in place coaching/mentoring/a buddy system for staff who are neurodivergent
- Undertaking a review of our services to ensure they are accessible to neurodivergent individuals and making adaptations where necessary
- Making the action plan (toolkit) publicly available as a resource for other local employers (via South and Vale business support newsletter)
- Continuing to work with partners across Oxfordshire to share best practice on issues pertaining to neurodiversity
- Setting up learning and awareness events and using communication channels including social media
- consultation on a draft action plan with people with lived experience

H. Motion to be proposed by Councillor MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Wilson:

This council should seek to encourage developers to work closely with the local council (parish/town) to develop appropriate leisure facilities for that area.

14 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.

15 Covid-19 leisure support package (Pages 80 - 109)

At its meeting on 18 March 2021 Cabinet will consider a confidential report on the impact of Covid-19 on leisure facilities in the district.

The confidential report of the acting deputy chief executive – place which Cabinet will consider on 18 March is attached.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors following the Cabinet meeting.

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic