

# Council



Listening Learning Leading

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## Summons to attend a meeting of Council

to be held on

**THURSDAY 7 OCTOBER 2021 AT 6.00 PM**

at

**FIRST FLOOR, 135 EASTERN AVENUE, MILTON PARK, MILTON, OX14 4SB**

To watch this meeting, follow this link to the council's YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTj2pCic8vzucpzlaSWE3UQ>

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Arran'.

Patrick Arran  
Head of Legal and Democratic

# Agenda

## 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 15 July 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 chair 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 Making the Crowmarsh Development Plan (Pages 21 - 28)

To consider the recommendations of the Cabinet member for planning, made on 28 September 2021, regarding the neighbourhood plan for Crowmarsh following the referendum held on 2 September 2021.

The Individual Cabinet Member Decision is attached.

### RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL: to

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

## **8 Treasury Management Outturn 2020-21** (Pages 29 - 49)

Cabinet, at its meeting on 30 September, will consider the report of the head of finance on the outturn performance of the treasury management function for the financial year 2020/21.

The report of the head of finance, which the Joint Audit and Governance Committee considered on 28 September 2021 and Cabinet will consider on 30 September 2021, is **attached**.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors.

## **9 Councillors' Allowances Scheme** (Pages 50 - 82)

To consider the report of the head of legal and democratic, and the recommendations of the Joint Independent Remuneration Panel, on a revised councillors' allowances scheme - **attached**.

## **10 Report of the leader of the council**

To receive the report of the leader of the council.

## **11 Questions on notice**

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

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

Can the Leader confirm that a full consultation process on the size and style of the new HQ building on the gateway site will be undertaken with the residents who border the gateway site on two sides and what further consultation will take place?

## **12 Motions on notice**

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

(1) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Robin Bennett, seconded by Councillor Andrea Powell:

Council notes that the Government is currently running its public consultation on the Vision for "the Oxford to Cambridge Arc".

It appears that Government has made economic growth its priority for the Arc, without asking residents whether that is the right priority, considering natural limits and resource constraints, or even whether the Arc project is necessary.

The Dasgupta review, published earlier this year<sup>1</sup>, found that the UK's traditional approach to growth is unsustainable.

Local authority leaders, including from this council, have tried to prioritise nature and climate action by proposing Arc Environmental Principles, but the Government's current consultation ignores them, as noted by BBOWT<sup>2</sup>, RSPB<sup>3</sup> and others.

Council notes these concerns and asks the Leader to write to the new Minister for Levelling up, Housing and Communities, asking him to:

- Pause the Arc project to reflect on whether the creation of an arbitrary geographic construct driving excessive growth in the South East will make a positive contribution to the government's stated aim of 'levelling up' the UK.
- If the project is to continue, set out clearly what the Government's aims for it are, including expected costs, projected housing and growth expectations, and how it will fit into a wider regional structure within the UK.
- Give local authorities within the Arc area the powers and funding needed to enable landscape-scale nature restoration and world-leading environmental standards.
- Ensure proper local democratic control, with constituent local planning authorities able to set their own housing requirements based on local need.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bbowt.org.uk/blog/estelle-bailey/government-must-rethink-arc-avoid-environmental-catastrophe>

<sup>3</sup> <https://community.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/b/rspb-england/posts/time-to-rethink-the-arc>

(2) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Anne-Marie Simpson, seconded by Councillor Pieter-Paul Barker:

Council acknowledges the appointment of a new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. It hopes that he will reconsider HM Government's proposed planning reforms and make use of this opportunity to prioritise ambitions to address the climate emergency, protect and enhance the natural environment and increase biodiversity – all of which will help to improve the health and well-being of the nation. It is only by putting sustainability at the heart of these matters that the UK will be able to deliver on its environmental ambitions.

The Council notes:

- the appointment of Michael Gove as Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
- the upcoming United Nations COP26 climate summit gives government at all levels the opportunity to galvanise action on reducing emissions.
- HM Government's stated ambitions to Build Back Better, achieve Net Zero and to leave the natural environment in a better state than it found it.

Council calls for HM Government to:

- scrap the current proposals for planning reform and maintain the right of local residents to engage and comment on individual planning applications
- transform the local planning process into one that assesses the climate fitness of a district and plans for growth within the environmental capacity of the area, looking at carbon emissions, water availability and the pressing need for nature recovery at scale
- maintain the right of local people, through robust Neighbourhood and Local Plan processes, to decide how their communities develop sustainably
- reverse the recently introduced permitted development rights which bypass local decision-making
- support councils in adopting strong local and strategic planning policies (including through plans like the Oxfordshire Plan 2050) to maximise protection for the environment, decarbonise, recycle urban land, revitalise existing places and plan for new development within the limits of climate and environmental capacity, to create strong, healthy, sustainable communities where people want, and can afford, to live.

and asks the Leader to write to the Secretary of State and our local Members of Parliament to this effect and to reiterate this Council's belief that the 5 Year Housing Land Supply measure is flawed and inappropriate, as Councils should not be held to account for the actions – or indeed lack of action - of developers, with regard to the delivery of housing on allocated or approved development sites.

(3) Motion to be proposed by Councillor David Rouane, seconded by Councillor Sue Cooper

In March 2020, as we were faced with the economic fallout from the pandemic, the Government did the right thing and increased Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit by £20 a week.

Council notes that this £20 a week is now to be cut, coming into effect for families on Universal Credit from 6 October. This cut will mean the biggest overnight cut to the basic rate of social security since the modern welfare state began, more than 70 years ago.

According to analysis by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 21% of all working-age families will experience a £1,040-a-year cut to their incomes from this week.

Many of the same families will be seeing an increase in National Insurance costs. Lower income households spend more of their income on basic essentials such as food and utilities, and the cost of these is currently rising fast.

The Government says it wants to support people back into work as we emerge from the crisis. But working families make up around 60% of families who will be affected.

Council reiterates our corporate plan commitment to support vulnerable members of our community through improved economic and community wellbeing.

Council acknowledges the concerns raised by local and national charities (including as Elmore, Citizens Advice Bureau and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation) about the

significantly negative impact this cut will have on the financial security and well being of those effected in our district.

Council deplores the decision of the Government to remove the ‘temporary’ uplift in Universal Credit which will directly impact at least 5,024\* families in the South Oxfordshire district.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (copied to our local MPs) expressing our grave concern about the impact on families within the district and to request that the decision to cut the Universal Credit uplift reversed, and that the uplift be incorporated permanently into Universal Credit.

\*The total number of households on Universal Credit as of May 2021 is 6,060; of which 5,024 are in payment. (Gov.uk)

(4) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers, seconded by Councillor Sam Casey-Rerhaye:

Council notes:

- The recent report by Swim England which warns that almost 2,000 pools could be lost in England by the end of the decade.
- The Council’s annual greenhouse gas emission report (<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/04/Greenhouse-gas-emissions-report-South-2019-20.docx>) in respect to our aging leisure centres, coupled with the need to decarbonise wet side facilities to achieve the council’s carbon reduction targets, rightly requires a focus on heat decarbonisation and whole building approach.
- That phase one and two of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund were oversubscribed within weeks of opening, highlighting the need to move away from stop-start initiatives of ringfenced pots of money with competitive bidding processes – and, instead, resource local areas to deliver their own decarbonisation strategies.
- That competitive bidding for funds can put significant resource pressure on lean councils without guarantee of award.
- That the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund’s eligibility criteria make the fund particularly inaccessible to councils whose leisure centres are operated by third party providers.
- Long-term funding, delivered through local authorities would deliver positive outcomes in terms of enhancing the future of public swimming pools, potentially decrease the long-term cost of operating pools, and contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions.
- Long-term funding, invested through local authorities and other public sector organisations, will also provide local suppliers with the confidence to invest in staff, skills and the technology.

Council resolves to:

- Continue work on evaluation of the best ways to decarbonise our leisure centres at a pace, so that applications for phase 3 or any subsequent rounds of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund can be utilised, noting the constraints above and that the criteria for these funding routes are set

- nationally.
- Agree that the leader writes to BEIS highlighting both the barriers in the existing schemes, as well as the urgent need for the Government to set out a long-term funding for safeguarding and decarbonising leisure centres and move away from competitive bidding in order to support local authorities to lead the way in the delivery of a net zero future for leisure.

(5) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Stefan Gawrysiak, seconded by Councillor Kellie Hinton

Council notes that:

- Two years ago, Sue Ryder at Nettlebed closed. Therefore, in South Oxfordshire there is no End of Life palliative hospice care provision. South Oxfordshire has a population of 140,000 and from Thame to Didcot and Caversham, from Oxford to Henley on Thames there are no end of life residential care facilities.
- The Duchess of Kent (Tilehurst) and Sobell House (Oxford) are not admitting any new patients. Thames Hospice in Maidenhead has 26 Beds, and all are full.

Council questions why does Berkshire have great End of Life Palliative hospice care and yet the Clinical Commissioning Groups covering South Oxfordshire provide absolutely none within its boundaries?

Council resolves that South Oxfordshire residents deserve better and asks the Leader of the council to write to the Clinical Commissioning Groups covering South Oxfordshire calling on them to properly analyse the need and provide suitable residential hospice care with appropriate specialist care from nurses, doctors and consultants.

(6) Motion to be proposed by Councillor Sam Casey-Rerhaye, seconded by Councillor George Levy:

Council notes that:

Joint Scrutiny have approved their Task and Finish group's report on Retrofitting Homes in the Districts and this report will go for consideration to the Climate & Ecological Emergencies Advisory Committee and Cabinet.

Retrofitting homes for energy efficiency is essential to achieve our carbon emission reduction target.

Energy efficient measures in homes also addresses health inequalities and fuel poverty.

Local Authorities are well placed to be a leading partner in co-ordinating this complex but urgent issue, alongside LEPs.

The government's Green Homes Grant was a failure on its own terms and could have set back retrofitting in this country.

The National Construction Leadership Council (CLC) has already developed a national Retrofit Strategy and says a 'retrofit army' is needed.

The UK is hosting the UN COP26 conference in November and our government should have evidence-based concrete strategies in place to achieve massive carbon savings, essential if we are to work with the global community to limit catastrophic climate breakdown.

Council resolves to:

1. Write to the Minister of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, the Minister of State for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities, Rt Hon Michael Gove MP and the president of COP26, Rt Hon Alok Sharma, enclosing the Joint Scrutiny Report, urging them to:
  - address this issue as a priority, recognising its importance in achieving our national and international carbon emission targets;
  - suggest that Ministers use the Construction Leadership Council's Retrofit Strategy as a basis for a government policy and plan;
  - include adequate funding for all Local Authorities in any retrofit strategy as they are perfectly placed to lead local Retrofit partnerships and strategies alongside LEPs;
  - develop long term support for householders including changes in relevant laws, guidance and tax regulations and to encourage businesses and skills development in this area;
  - recognise the benefits to society in better health and wellbeing from energy efficient homes;
  - recognise the industrial and employment opportunities that a countrywide retrofit plan could present to the British economy
2. Work collaboratively with local and national government partners, the Oxfordshire LEP, the FOP Environment Advisory Board, businesses and NGOs to seek to develop the capacity for such a 'retrofit army', identify external funding sources and to offer advice and support to individuals, households and businesses wishing to retrofit their buildings where possible.

### **13 Exclusion of the public**

To consider whether to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting for the following items 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) they involve 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.



## **14 Application for Grant Funding - Henley and District Housing Trust (Pages 83 - 101)**

Cabinet, at its meeting on 30 September 2021, will consider the confidential report of the interim head of development and regeneration on the provision of grant funding using commuted sums held by the council, of an affordable housing project being delivered by the Henley and District Housing Trust (HDHT), a Registered Provider of affordable housing.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors.

## **15 New office accommodation - RIBA stage 2 concept design and budget envelope (Pages 102 - 212)**

Cabinet, at its meeting on 30 September 2021, will consider the confidential report of the deputy chief executive – transformation and operations, on the RIBA stage 2 concept design and costings report for the new office accommodation at the council's Didcot Gateway site.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors.

## **16 Revised capital programme 2021/22 to 2025/26 (Pages 213 - 288)**

Cabinet, at its meeting on 30 September 2021, will consider the confidential report of the head of finance on a revised capital programme for 2021/22 to 2025/26 as a result of changes that have occurred in the year to date, including those for the office accommodation project.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors.

## **17 Development at 116-120 Broadway, Didcot - phase one budget setting (Pages 289 - 293)**

Cabinet, at its meeting on 30 September 2021, will consider the confidential report of the interim head of development and regeneration on the development of affordable housing and associated community space on council owned property, 116, 118 and 120 Broadway, Didcot.

The recommendations of Cabinet will be circulated to all councillors.

Patrick Arran  
Head of Legal and Democratic