

Democratic Services

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13 October 2015

SUMMONS TO ATTEND

MEETING: WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLACE: COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WOODGREEN, WITNEY
DATE: WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2015
TIME: 2.00 PM

RECORDING OF MEETINGS

The law allows the council's public meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Committee Officer know before the start of the meeting.

A G E N D A

- 1. Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2015 (previously circulated)**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of interest from Councillors relating to items to be considered at the meeting, in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Local Code of Conduct, and any from Officers.
- 4. Receipt of Announcements**

To receive any announcements from The Chairman, Leader, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive.
- 5. Participation of the Public**

To receive any submissions from members of the public, in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure.
- 6. Recommendations from the Executive and the Council's Committees (Report of the Chief Executive – copy attached)**

Purpose:

To receive and consider recommendations made by the Cabinet and the Council's Committees from 10 September to 14 October 2015.

Recommendation:

That the recommendations set out in the Appendix to the report be adopted.

7. Reports of the Cabinet and the Council's Committees (copies attached)

To receive the reports of the following meetings of the Cabinet and the Council's Committees. Unless otherwise stated, copies are attached:

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| (a) | Economic and Social O&S Committee | 10 September 2015 |
| (b) | Cabinet | 16 September 2015 |
| (c) | Environment O&S Committee | 17 September 2015 |
| (d) | Development Control Committee | 21 September 2015 |
| (e) | Finance and Management O&S Committee | 23 September 2015 |
| (f) | Audit and General Purposes Committee | 24 September 2015 |
| (g) | Licensing Committee | 29 September 2015 |
| (h) | Human Resources Committee | 30 September 2015 |
| (i) | Cabinet | 14 October 2015 |

8. 2020 Vision Programme – Report of Frank Wilson, Strategic Director (previously circulated under separate cover)

Purpose:

To consider the report to the 2020 Vision Partnership Member Governance Board (previously circulated under separate cover)

Recommendation:

That the Council considers the report and attachments in light of the recommendations made by the Cabinet at its meeting on 14 October.

9. Notice of Motion – Refugees

The following motion has been received in the names of Mr A M Graham and Mr G Saul, namely:

'This council thanks the Leader for his swift response in convening meetings of relevant Cabinet Members and officers to address the council's response to the refugee crisis.

Further, council (i) in recognition of the non- adversarial and humanitarian nature of the crisis, agrees that a representative of each of the Liberal Democrat and Labour Groups be invited to attend future meetings, via the respective group leaders; and (ii) requests the Leader to include a report on the matter as a standing item on Cabinet agendas, for the duration of the emergency.'

10. Notice of Motion – Affordable Housing

The following motion has been received in the name of Mr G Saul, namely:

'In his speech to his party's annual conference, the Prime Minister confirmed that planning laws would be changed to allow developers to fulfil their obligation to build affordable homes by offering starter homes priced at 20% below market rate in place of building affordable homes for rent or for sale through "intermediate" housing schemes such as shared ownership.

As the National Housing Federation has stated, this is likely to lead to fewer homes being built for social rent or affordable rent at a time when the extension of right to buy to housing association tenants is also likely to reduce the available stock of social housing.

In the light of the above, this Council:

1. Confirms its support for the creation of mixed tenure developments that recognise the District's significant need for affordable rented accommodation in contributing towards the District's identified affordable housing needs as set out in the provisions of Policy H3 in the Council's emerging Local Plan 2031; and
2. Requests that in promoting schemes to encourage new starter homes for sale the government should also introduce measures that encourage the building, in at least equal numbers, of a combination of (a) affordable, secure homes for rent and (b) affordable shared ownership properties in the various forms that Housing Associations have developed (e.g. *rent to buy; part buy part rent; shared equity*) so that the creation of new starter homes is not at the expense of these latter forms of social housing.'

11. Notice of Motion – Business Rates

The following motion has been received in the name of Mr G Saul, namely:

'While welcoming the proposal that Councils should set their own business rates and retain 100% of the proceeds, this Council supports the Local Government Association in calling for:

- Measures to ensure that local areas with less ability to generate business rates income do not suffer as a result of these changes; and
- The power for all councils to vary business rates up as well as down in order to raise funds for vital infrastructure projects; and
- Protection of the funding of local services in November's spending review so that the financial pressures now facing local councils are not exacerbated by further spending reductions.

In addition, this Council requests:

- clarification of the "extra responsibilities" that local government will be expected to fund through business rates income; and
- details of existing grants that may be lost.'

12. Start Times of Meetings – (Report of the Leader of the Council - copy attached)

Purpose:

Further to the meeting of the Council held 2 September, to enable the Council to give further consideration to the start time of meetings.

Recommendation:

That, having regard to the responses summarised in Appendix B, no change be made to the current arrangements, including the continuation of the practice whereby each Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviews its start time at the beginning of each civic year.

I2a Housing of Refugees from Syria (Report of the Joint Head of Revenues and Housing Support - copy attached)

Purpose:

To seek authority to take the necessary steps to secure the housing of six refugee families from Syria in the period to June 2016

Recommendations:

- (a) That support be given to the making of an offer to government for six refugee families to be taken in West Oxfordshire, in three phases (December 2015; and March and May/June 2016); and
- (b) That the Head of Revenues and Housing Support be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Members for Communities and Housing and Leisure and Health, to take the necessary steps to secure the housing of those families in the period to June 2016.

I3. Sealing of Documents (copy attached)

Purpose:

To note the documents sealed since the last report.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

David Neudegg
Chief Executive