

Democratic Services

Reply to: Paul Cracknell
Direct Line: (01993) 861523

E-mail: paul.cracknell@westoxon.gov.uk

15 October 2019

SUMMONS TO ATTEND

MEETING: WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
PLACE: COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, WOODGREEN, WITNEY
DATE: WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2019
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 31 July 2019 (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 Head of Paid Service.
- 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**

Purpose:
To receive and consider recommendations made by the Cabinet and the Council's Committees from 18 September to 16 October 2019.

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

7. Reports of the Cabinet and the Council's Committees

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

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|------------------|
| (a) | Cabinet | 18 September 2019 | |
| (b) | Economic and Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 19 September 2019 | |
| (c) | Audit and General Purposes Committee | 26 September 2019 | |
| (d) | Finance and Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 2 October 2019 | |
| (e) | Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 10 October 2019 | To Follow |
| (f) | Economic and Social Overview and Scrutiny Committee | 10 October 2019 | To Follow |
| (g) | Cabinet | 16 October 2019 | To Follow |

8. Notice of Motion – Live Streaming of Council and Committee Meetings

The following Motion has been received in the names of Councillors Jake Acock and Andy Graham, namely:-

“One of the ethos of this council is to be inclusive; not exclusive. We want to welcome people in and get more and more active with local government.

This council recognises we are living in an age of technology that can be used to keep in touch, improve communications and change peoples lives for the better.

Therefore, in order to improve our communications, we charge that every council and committee meeting is filmed and recorded, then placed on the West Oxfordshire District Council website for West Oxfordshire residents to view and listen to our meetings.

Across the country from Manchester, Wandsworth and Bath, council meetings are recorded.

Therefore, this council charges that we will now record and stream live all of our council meetings and committee meetings”.

9. Notice of Motion – South Oxfordshire Local Plan

The following Motion has been received in the names of Councillors Dan Levy and Andy Graham, namely:-

“This Council notes, with regret, the intervention by the Secretary of State, Rt Hon Robert Jenrick, in the South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan process, which demonstrates the Government's disregard for local democracy and the views of residents.

This heavy-handed move prevented South Oxfordshire Councillors (and the 34 members of public registered to speak) from debating and deciding how to progress with THEIR local plan and this Council deplores the Government's actions.

Councillors are elected to represent local residents and make decisions about local council matters on their behalf. Regardless of the views that may be held on the Local Plan or any other matter in the competence of an authority, it is not for central Government to prevent local democracy.

We therefore call upon West Oxfordshire District Council to offer its support to South Oxfordshire DC, and states that it would strongly resist any attempt by HM Government to prevent WODC from debating and then deciding on any local matters which are within its competence”.

10. Notice of Motion – European Union Nationals

The following Motion has been received in the names of Councillors Carl Rylett and Andy Graham, namely:-

“Council notes that EU nationals are part of our shared communities. They are our husbands, wives, parents, friends and colleagues. They are an integral part of a vibrant and thriving West Oxfordshire.

Since 2016 EU nationals were promised again and again that "there will be no change for EU citizens already lawfully resident in the UK and [...] will be treated no less favourably as they are at present”.

After three years of living in limbo, their homes and livelihoods are in danger of being threatened by the further uncertainty brought about by the prospect of an even more chaotic no-deal Brexit.

According to the Home Office’s July statistics, only a third of EU nationals have applied for the Settled Status and 42% of them have been granted the inferior Pre-Settled status leading them to reapply for the Settled status later on. There is no possibility of knowing how many EU nationals need to apply, leaving vulnerable and unaware EU nationals left at risk of becoming unlawful residents the mercy of the Home Office’s “Hostile Environment”. Lack of clarity regarding differentiating between EU citizens arriving before and after the UK’s exit from the EU could lead to discrimination in the labour market and may prevent many from accessing the services that they are entitled to.

Another Windrush-like scandal could be unfolding right before the eyes of this Council and we mustn’t be passive observers to it.

Therefore, the Council asks that:

- 1. Officers report on how the Council can mitigate adverse impacts on the rights of EU nationals (including but not limited to advising on what the Council can do to help landlords and employers to be better informed about immigration status and therefore avoid potential discrimination against EU nationals)*
- 2. The Leader of the Council writes to EU citizens resident in the district giving advice on applying for Settled Status. This notice shall inform EU citizens of any potential consequences of not applying for the EU Settlement scheme.*
- 3. The Leader of the Council writes to the Home Secretary seeking clarification and suggesting improvements for the European Settlement scheme, which include:*
 - Providing physical proof of Settled status that can be used to access services*
 - Confirming that there will be no changes to the rights of settled EU citizens that they currently have by ratifying the Immigration Bill as primary legislation before the exit day*
 - Making clearer and more transparent the criteria for which the Home Office approves applications for settled status or gives instead the less secure pre-settled status, and review why a significant percentage only receive the latter*
 - A review of charges and waivers for applications for British Citizenship for European citizens and their children”*

II. Sealing of Documents (copy attached)

Purpose:

To note the documents sealed since the last report.

Recommendation:

That the report be noted.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Giles Hughes".

Giles Hughes
Chief Executive