

Tuesday, 13 May 2025

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COUNCIL

You are summoned to a meeting of the Council which will be held at Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxfordshire OX28 1NB on **Wednesday, 21 May 2025 at 2.00 pm.**



Giles Hughes
Chief Executive

To: Members of the Council

Councillors: Elizabeth Poskitt (Chair), Andrew Coles (Vice-Chair), Joy Aitman, Lidia Arciszewska, Thomas Ashby, Hugo Ashton, Mike Baggaley, Andrew Beaney, Michael Brooker, Adam Clements, David Cooper, Julian Cooper, Sandra Cosier, Steve Cosier, Rachel Crouch, Jane Doughty, Genny Early, Duncan Enright, Roger Faulkner, Phil Godfrey, Andy Goodwin, Andy Graham, David Jackson, Edward James, Natalie King, Liz Leffman, Nick Leverton, Dan Levy, Andrew Lyon, Paul Marsh, Martin McBride, Stuart McCarroll, Michele Mead, David Melvin, Rosie Pearson, Andrew Prosser, Nigel Ridpath, Carl Rylett, Geoff Saul, Sandra Simpson, Alaric Smith, Ruth Smith, Tim Sumner, Sarah Veasey, Liam Walker, Mark Walker, Adrian Walsh, Alex Wilson and Alistair Wray

Recording of Proceedings – The law allows the public proceedings of Council, Executive, and Committee Meetings to be recorded, which includes filming as well as audio-recording. Photography is also permitted. By participating in this meeting, you are consenting to be filmed.

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record any part of the proceedings please let the Democratic Services officers know prior to the start of the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Election of Chair for 2025/26

Purpose:

To elect a Councillor, other than a Member of the Executive, to be the Chair of Council.

Recommendation:

That Council resolves to:

- Elect a Chair of the Council for a term of office extending to the start of the Annual Council meeting in May 2026.

2. Appointment of Vice-Chair for 2025/26

Purpose:

To appoint a Councillor, other than a Member of the Executive, to be the Vice-Chair of Council.

Recommendation:

That Council resolves to:

- I. Appoint a Vice-Chair of the Council for a term of office extending to the start of the Annual Council meeting in May 2026.

3. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest from Members of the Council on any items to be considered at the meeting.

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 14)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2025.

6. Receipt of Announcements

To receive any announcements from the Chair, Leader, Members of the Executive, Head of Paid Service, Chief Finance Officer and/or Monitoring Officer.

7. Vote of thanks to the Chair and Vice-Chair 2024/25

To give a vote of thanks to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council for 2024/25.

8. Report of the Leader

Purpose:

To receive a verbal report from the Leader covering:

- The appointment of the Deputy Leader;
- The appointment of Executive Members and the allocation of portfolio responsibilities;
- The appointment of an Executive Member to the Oxfordshire Leaders Joint Committee (normally the Leader);
- The appointment of a substitute member to the Oxfordshire Leaders Joint Committee, which could be a named Executive Member or any Executive

Members;

- Confirmation that the Executive Scheme of Delegation is as set out in Parts 3D and 4 of the Constitution;

Recommendation:

That Council resolves to:

- I. Note the Report of the Leader.

9. **Report on special urgency key decisions (Pages 15 - 22)**

Purpose

To receive a report from the Leader on key decisions taken under special urgency rules within the last year.

Recommendation

That Council resolves to:

- I. Note the report

10. **Appointment of Members to the Council's Committees, including Substitute Members (Pages 23 - 38)**

Purpose

To establish the Council's committees for the 2025/26 Civic Year and appoint members to committees and working groups:

- To establish the Council's committees as defined in Part 3C of the Council's Constitution, for the Civic Year 2025/26;
- To establish the allocation of seats to political groups based on political proportionality;
- To appoint members to the Council's committees, working groups and external committees for the Civic Year 2025/26.

Recommendations

That Council resolves to:

1. Agree to establish the Council's Committees as defined in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution, for the Civic Year 2025/26;
2. Determine that, in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 ("the Act"), the Council shall continue to apply the political balance provisions under the Act to committees as shown in Annex A;
3. Appoint councillors to serve on the Council's committees, working groups and external committees, as set out in Annex B for a term of office expiring at the next Annual Meeting of the Council;
4. Note the arrangements for substitute members set out in part 5 of the report;
5. Agree the terms of reference for the Carterton Area Strategy Working Group;
6. Agree the terms of reference for the Local Government Reorganisation and Devolution Working Group;
7. Agree the updated terms of reference for the Local Plan Cross Party Working Group.

11. **Constitution Working Group Recommendations (Pages 39 - 50)**

Purpose

To present the Council with recommendations arising from a meeting of the Constitution Working Group held on 26 March 2025. To also agree the Scheme of Officer Delegations, other than those relating to Executive functions and to adopt the Council's Constitution, as amended, as is required at the Annual Council meeting.

Recommendations

That Council resolves to:

1. Adopt the Council's Constitution and agree the Scheme of Officer Delegations, other than those relating to Executive functions, as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.
2. Note that the Director of Governance adopted the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in consultation with the Chair of the Constitution Working Group, following the delegation agreed at the 19 March 2025 Council meeting.
3. Agree to amend the number of seats on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee within Part 3C of the Constitution to 15 members (from 24) and the quorum to 4 members (from 6).
4. Note that the Constitution Working Group endorsed the Officer recommendation for further Overview and Scrutiny training for Members.
5. Agree with the Constitution Working Group that the 'full transparency' electronic voting option will be used at meetings of Full Council (with immediate effect), and (from 22 May 2025) Development Control Committee and planning sub-committees.
6. Agree that the Council will not develop a policy for community governance reviews at the current time in view of local government reorganisation.
7. Agree the revised public speaking rules at Annex A, which seek to align the public speaking rules for different meetings, as far as practicable.

12. **Partnerships report (Pages 51 - 56)**

Purpose

To enable the Leader to provide an update to Council on his portfolio responsibility for Strategic Partnerships.

Recommendation

That Council Resolves to:

1. Note the contents of the Strategic Partnership Update.

13. **Dates of Future Meetings**

- 16 July 2025
- 1 October 2025
- 3 December 2025
- 28 January 2026
- 25 February 2026
- 25 March 2026
- 20 May 2026

(END)