

Reissued Agenda and Briefing Note

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Republished 1 December to include item of urgent business (16) to be certified as such by the Lord Mayor before consideration at the meeting.

Council

Date: **Monday 7 December 2015**

Time: **5.00 pm**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall**

For any further information please contact:

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Officer**

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**Information in this and the supplements form all the documents for
consideration at this meeting.**

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record the meeting please let the Contact Officer know how you wish to do this before the start of the meeting.

This meeting will also be available via a webcast. This means that people may choose to watch all or part of the meeting over the internet rather than attend in person. The webcast will be available to view on the City Council's website after the meeting.

Council

Membership

Lord Mayor	Councillor Rae Humberstone	
Deputy Lord Mayor	Councillor Colin Cook	
Sheriff	Councillor Sajjad Malik	
Members	Councillor Mohammed Abbasi	Councillor Chewe Munkonge
	Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan	Councillor Michele Paule
	Councillor Farida Anwar	Councillor Jennifer Pegg
	Councillor Elise Benjamin	Councillor Susanna Pressel
	Councillor Ruthi Brandt	Councillor Bob Price
	Councillor Susan Brown	Councillor Mike Rowley
	Councillor Bev Clack	Councillor Gwynneth Royce
	Councillor Mary Clarkson	Councillor Gill Sanders
	Councillor Van Coulter	Councillor Christine Simm
	Councillor Roy Darke	Councillor Craig Simmons
	Councillor Jean Fooks	Councillor Dee Sinclair
	Councillor James Fry	Councillor Linda Smith
	Councillor Andrew Gant	Councillor John Tanner
	Councillor Stephen Goddard	Councillor Richard Tarver
	Councillor Michael Gotch	Councillor Sian Taylor
	Councillor Mick Haines	Councillor David Thomas
	Councillor Tom Hayes	Councillor Ed Turner
	Councillor David Henwood	Councillor Louise Upton
	Councillor Sam Hollick	Councillor Oscar Van Nooijen
	Councillor Alex Hollingsworth	Councillor Elizabeth Wade
	Councillor Pat Kennedy	Councillor Ruth Wilkinson
	Councillor Ben Lloyd-Shogbesan	Councillor Dick Wolff
	Councillor Mark Lygo	

The quorum for this meeting is 12 members.

HOW TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE AGENDA

In order to reduce the use of resources, our carbon footprint and our costs we will no longer produce paper copies of agenda over and above our minimum requirements. Paper copies may be looked at the Town Hall Reception and at Customer Services, St Aldate's and at the Westgate Library

A copy of the agenda may be:-

- Viewed on our website – mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk
- Downloaded from our website
- Subscribed to electronically by registering online at mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk

SUMMONS

A meeting of the City Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, on Monday 7 December 2015 at 5.00 pm to transact the business set out below.



Proper Officer

AGENDA

Pages

PART 1 - PUBLIC BUSINESS

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on 23 September 2015.

Council is asked to approve the minutes as a correct record.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

4 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

The Head of Law and Governance has been notified of resignations from committees and changes of membership requested by group leaders.

Council is asked to make the following appointments to committees.

- Scrutiny Committee - Councillor Upton has resigned from the committee. Council is asked to appoint Councillor Pegg to replace her.

Any further proposed changes will be circulated with the briefing note.

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements by:

- (1) The Lord Mayor
- (2) The Sheriff
- (3) The Leader of the Council
- (4) The Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer

6 PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT RELATE TO MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THIS MEETING

Public addresses and questions to the Leader or other Board Members received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.11 and 11.12 relating to matters for decision on this agenda.

The request to speak accompanied by the full text of the address or question must be received by the Head of Law and Governance by 5.00 pm on Tuesday 1 December 2015.

The briefing note will contain the text of addresses and questions submitted by the deadline, and written responses where available.

A total of 45 minutes is available for both public speaking items. Responses are included in this time. Up to five minutes is available for each public address or question.

CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

7 NORTHWAY AND MARSTON FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME PROJECT

17 - 28

The Executive Director, Community Services submitted a report to the City Executive Board on 12 November seeking project approval for the Northway and Marston Flood Alleviation Scheme.

The relevant draft minute of the City Executive Board meeting is attached later in the agenda.

The Board Member will present the report and recommendations.

Recommendations

The City Executive Board recommends Council to resolve to include the additional budget of £928,000 for the Northway and Marston Flood Alleviation Scheme in the Capital Programme (£2,196,000 financed from external funding, £400,000 financed from Council capital).

8 OXPENS DELIVERY STRATEGY

29 - 36

The Executive Director, Regeneration and Housing submitted a report to the City Executive Board on 15 October which provides an update and seeks approval for an amendment to the Oxpens Delivery Strategy and budgetary adjustments.

The relevant draft minute of the City Executive Board meeting is attached later in the agenda.

The Board Member will present the report and recommendations.

Recommendations

The City Executive Board recommends Council to resolve to approve the establishment of a capital budget of £8.4m to progress the project through the next stages.

LICENSING AND GAMBLING ACTS COMMITTEE REPORT

REVIEW OF THE STATEMENT OF GAMBLING LICENSING POLICY

Urgent item under S 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972*

The reason for urgency is that the consultation closed on 26 November and the report was not added to the agenda until the Chair and Vice-Chair had reviewed the comments. This was after the publication date of 27 December. Before this can be discussed, the Lord Mayor must state whether he considers the item should be taken at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

The Head of Community Services submitted a report to the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee on 14 September 2015 which detailed the revised draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy for public consultation. In discussion the Committee agreed that the “No Casino” resolution should be retained.

The Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee resolved to:

1. Agree that a 6 week consultation be held on renewing the revised draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy; and
2. Recommend to Council to resolve to adopt the revised draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy effective from 31 January 2016 (subject to any relevant representations being received within the consultation deadline to be reviewed by the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee) on the basis that a further review of the Policy will be undertaken following new Guidance from the Gambling Commission being issued.

Two relevant representations were received and the Chair and Vice-Chair have considered these. There are no changes to the recommended policy.

The Committee Chair will move the recommendations.

Recommendations

Council is recommended to adopt the revised draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy as attached to the agenda effective from 31 January 2016.

**Local Government Act 1972 (section inserted by Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)*

100B Access to agenda and connected reports.

(1)Copies of the agenda for a meeting of a principal council and.... copies of any report for the meeting shall be open to inspection by members of the public at the offices of the council in accordance with subsection (3) below.

(3)Any document which is required by subsection (1) above to be open to inspection shall be so open at least five clear days before the meeting, except that - .

.....
(b)where an item is added to an agenda copies of which are open to inspection by the public, copies of the item (or of the revised agenda), and the copies of any report for the meeting relating to the item, shall be open to inspection from the time the item is added to the agenda; but nothing in this subsection requires copies of any agenda, item or report to be open to

Supplement

inspection by the public until copies are available to members of the council.

*(4)An item of business may not be considered at a meeting of a principal council unless either
(a)a copy of the agenda including the item (or a copy of the item) is open to inspection by
members of the public in pursuance of subsection (1) above for at least [F4five clear days]
before the meeting or, where the meeting is convened at shorter notice, from the time the
meeting is convened; or .*

*(b)by reason of special circumstances, which shall be specified in the minutes, the chairman of
the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of
urgency.*

OFFICER REPORTS

9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME - REVIEW OF FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT DISCRETIONS

37 - 60

The Corporate Lead for HR & Organisational Development has submitted a report presenting for approval two revisions to the Council's Flexible Retirement Policy.

The Board Member for Customer and Corporate Services will move the recommendations and the Chief Executive will be available to answer questions.

Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

1. approve two revisions to the Flexible Retirement Policy (incorporated within the existing Pension & Retirement Options Statement attached at Appendix 1) with effect from 8th January 2016, namely:
 - a) to permit employees to choose a 'partial draw-down' of benefits; and
 - b) reduce the minimum level of salary/hours reduction from 40% to 20%
2. authorise the Corporate Lead for HR & Organisational Development in conjunction with the Head of Law and Governance and Director for Organisational Development and Corporate Services to amend the policy from time to time in order to correct any factual or legal errors.

10 CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS - CONTRACT RULES

61 - 80

The Head of Law and Governance has submitted a report recommending changes to the contract rules in Section 19 of the Council's constitution.

The Leader of the Council will move the recommendations and the Head of Law and Governance will be available to answer questions.

Recommendations

Council is recommended to approve, with immediate effect, the amendments to the Constitution as set out in the report and in Appendix 1.

11	COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE PROGRAMME MAY 2016 TO MAY 2017	81 - 90
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The Head of Law and Governance has submitted a report asking Council to agree a programme of Council and committee meetings for the 2016/17 council year (May 2016 to May 2017 inclusive).

Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

1. approve the programme of Council and Committee meetings attached at Appendix 1 for the council year 2016/17; and
2. delegate the setting of dates for the Standards Committee to the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Chair.

QUESTIONS

12	CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	91 - 108
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This item has a time limit of 15 minutes.

Councillors may ask the Board Members questions about matters in these minutes:

- Approved minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2015
- Draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2015

13	QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL
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Questions on notice from councillors received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.10(b).

Questions on notice may be asked of the Lord Mayor, a Board Member or a Chair of a Committee. One supplementary question may be asked at the meeting.

The full text of questions must be received by the Head of Law and Governance by no later than 1.00pm on Monday 30 November 2015.

The briefing note will contain all questions submitted by the deadline, and written responses where available.

PART 2 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCRUTINY

14 PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT DO NOT RELATE TO MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING

Public addresses and questions to the Leader or other Board Members received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.11 and 11.12 and not related to matters for decision on this agenda.

The request to speak accompanied by the full text of the address or question must be received by the Head of Law and Governance by 5.00 pm on Tuesday 1 December 2015.

The briefing note will contain the text of addresses and questions submitted by the deadline, and written responses where available.

A total of 45 minutes is available for both public speaking items. Responses are included in this time. Up to five minutes is available for each public address or question.

15 PETITIONS SCHEME - PETITION ASKING FOR SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

109 - 112

The Head of Law and Governance has submitted a report setting before Council a petition meeting the criteria for debate under the Council's petitions scheme. The head petitioner has been invited to address the meeting for up to five minutes.

The text of the petition reads: *To Oxfordshire County Council, Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council & West Oxfordshire District Council: Give shelter, support and a fair hearing to refugees and asylum seekers in our community. Work with existing organisations like Oxford City of Sanctuary, Refugee Resource & Asylum Welcome to help those who are already here and to take in more who are desperately in need.*

Recommendations

That Council follow the procedure for large petitions in the Council's Petitions Scheme by:

1. hearing the head petitioner for the petition;
2. debating the petition; and
3. deciding whether to make any recommendations to the City Executive Board or officers.

16 PETITIONS SCHEME - EAST OXFORD COMMUNITY CENTRE

113 - 114

The Head of Law and Governance has submitted a report setting before Council a petition meeting the criteria for debate under the Council's petitions scheme. The head petitioner has been invited to address the meeting for up to five minutes.

The text of the petition reads: *Help Stop Labour controlled Oxford City Council takeover of East Oxford Community Centre. We the undersigned hereby demonstrate our support for keeping the management of EOCC under the control of the people of East Oxford.*

Recommendations

That Council follow the procedure for large petitions in the Council's Petitions Scheme by:

1. hearing the head petitioner for the petition;
2. debating the petition; and
3. deciding whether to make any recommendations to either the City Executive Board and, or to officers.

17 OUTSIDE ORGANISATION/COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS AND QUESTIONS

115 - 150

1. On behalf of Councillor Price the Assistant Chief Executive has submitted the Annual Review of the work of the Oxfordshire Partnerships.

Council is invited to ask questions of the Leader and to note the submitted report.

2. On behalf of Councillor Turner the Assistant Chief Executive has submitted a report on the work of the Oxfordshire Health Improvement Board.

Council is invited to ask questions of the Leader and to note the submitted report.

3. Each ordinary meeting of Council shall normally receive a written report concerning the work of one of the partnerships on which the Council is represented.

The programme of reporting at future meetings will be:

- February 2016: Enterprise Partnership
 - April 2016: Oxfordshire Growth Board
 - July 2016: Community Safety
 - September 2016: Environmental and Waste
4. Members who are Council representatives on external bodies or Chairs of Council Committees who consider that a significant decision or event has taken place, will give notice to the Head of Law and Governance by 1.00 pm on Thursday 3 December 2015 that they wish present a written or oral report on the event or the significant decision and how it may influence future events.

18 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT

151 - 188

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee has submitted a report which updates

Council on the activities of scrutiny and other non-executive Councillors and the implementation of recommendations since the last meeting of Council.

Council is invited to comment on and note the report.

PART 3 - MOTIONS REPRESENTING THE CITY

19 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

This item has a time limit of 60 minutes.

The full text of motions received by the Head of Law and Governance in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.17 by the deadline of 1.00pm on 25 November is below. Motions will be taken in turn from the Labour Liberal Democrat, Green, groups in that order.

Substantive amendments to these motions must be sent by councillors to the Head of Law and Governance by no later than 1.00pm on 3 December. The briefing note will list amendments submitted before its publication.

Council is asked to consider the following motions:

1. Housing and Planning Bill (proposed by Councillor Rowley, seconded by Councillor Price)

Labour member motion

This Council notes:

- that the Housing and Planning Bill is currently being debated in Parliament, and if passed would threaten the provision of affordable homes for rent and buy through forcing "high-value" council homes to be sold on the open market, extending the "right to buy" to housing association tenants, and undermining section 106 requirements on private developers to provide affordable homes;
- that there is no commitment in the Bill that affordable homes will be replaced like-for-like in the local area - indeed, in Oxford it is very difficult to see how this could work financially;
- that whilst measures to help first-time buyers are welcome, the "starter homes" proposals in the Bill will be unaffordable to families and young people on ordinary incomes in most parts of the country, will not preserve the taxpayer investment, and will be built at the expense of genuinely affordable homes to rent and buy;
- that the Bill undermines localism by taking yet more new wide and open-ended powers for the Whitehall over councils and local communities - including the ability to override local plans, to mandate rents for social tenants, and to impose a levy on stock-holding councils, violating the terms of the housing revenue account self-financing deal; and
- that the Bill, whilst introducing some welcome measures to get to grips with rogue landlords, does not help with the high rents, poor conditions and insecurity affecting many private renters, in an expanding sector which now houses more than one in four households in Oxford, and does nothing to help arrest the recent rise in homelessness.

This Council:

- congratulates those involved in the Council's statistical research, which presents a clear picture of Oxford to the public and greatly helps us as Members to argue the case for Oxford; and
- thanks officers for the work they have done in preparing a robust response to the Government's consultation on the Bill.

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Executive Board:

1. to analyse and report on the likely impact of the forced sale of council homes, the extension of right-to-buy and the "starter homes" requirement on the local availability of affordable homes, and any further impacts of the Bill on our City;
2. to support the Leader of the Council in writing to the Secretary of State with our concerns about the Bill;
3. to ask for urgent meetings for the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and relevant Board Members and Officers, with our two local MPs, and with the relevant Minister in the DCLG; and
4. to make public our concerns by publishing this Motion prominently on the Council's website, and by promoting our concerns through the local and, if possible, national press;
5. to set up an urgent meeting between the Leader of the Council, Board Member for Housing and the Chief Executive with the local Members of Parliament to raise our concerns;
6. to make public our concerns, including by publishing the above information on the council's website and promoting through the local press.

2. Procurement and tax (proposed by Councillor Fooks)

Liberal Democrat member motion

Council notes that

- Corporate tax evasion and avoidance are having a damaging impact on the world's poorest countries, to such a level that it is costing them far more than they receive in aid
- this is costing the UK as much as £30bn a year
- this practice also has a negative effect on small and medium-sized companies who pay more tax proportionately

Council further notes

- that the UK Government has taken steps to tackle the issue of tax avoidance and evasion by issuing Procurement Policy Note 03/14, applying to all central government contracts worth more than £5m
- the availability of independent means of verifying tax compliance, such as the Fair Tax Mark

In early 2015 new regulations required public bodies, including councils, to ask procurement qualification questions of all companies for tenders over £173,000 for service contracts and £4m for works contracts. However, these questions are not as detailed as the PPN 03/14.

Oxford City Council currently requires companies to have ethical and social policies. Council believes that it should also require bidders for Council contracts to account for their past tax record, using the standards in PPN 03/14, rather than the lower standards in the recent regulations.

Council therefore calls for the new procurement procedures, currently being drawn up, to be amended to require all companies bidding for council contracts to self-certify that they are fully tax-compliant in line with central government practice, this to apply to all contracts worth over £173,000 for service contracts and above £4m for works contracts.

Council asks the Executive Board to publicise this policy and requests a report on its implementation to be presented to Council annually for the next three years.

3. Reforming Local Government Finance (proposed by Councillor Simmons)

Green member motion

This Council notes the recent exchange of correspondence between the Leader of the County Council and the MP for Witney.

This Council regrets the damaging social effects of the Government's austerity measures. In particular, it is concerned about the cuts to local Government finance which are affecting Oxford City and Oxfordshire County Council's at a time when local Government is facing increasing demands on its services.

This Council therefore asks the Leader to write to Oxfordshire's MPs asking them to lobby for the following changes to local Government financing for the City and County:

- Remove the 2% Council Tax cap.
- Give the Council the freedom to extend Council Tax bands.
- Remove the ring-fencing restrictions on some Council budgets.
- Re-direct some funding from the various economic development quangos to the Council.
- Give Councils the freedom to set their own Council house rent levels
- Allow for higher levels of prudential borrowing
- Reverse the cuts to the local Government funding and instead invest in a better, brighter future for the people of Oxfordshire.

4. Network Rail (proposed by Councillor Gotch)

Liberal Democrat member motion

Residents of Upper Wolvercote have been frequent complainants, for 6 months or so, to Oxford City Council and Network Rail during construction of the new east/west rail link. Reasons include excessive noise , fumes , and vibrations causing damage to nearby houses , and by the felling of nearly all mature trees on embankments – in spite of Network Rail's claim to be an environmentally conscious and sensitive organisation .

Network Rail has exercised its statutory right to carry out engineering operations on railway land without external sanction.

The Public Inquiry Inspector recommended conditions , endorsed by the Secretary of State , that are mainly concerned with rail service operations , not construction , and the City has not found them useful in monitoring or preventing poor practice during construction.

Council, therefore, calls on central government to pass legislation removing all permitted development rights for projects on railway land, and requiring railway operators to apply to the local planning authority for detailed planning permission for engineering operations on railway land – as with any other landowner. Landscaping issues would need to be included in any application, as well as good construction practice details. Administration costs and costs of officers' time and consultants' services would be paid by applicants, and exemptions would be safety related projects.

5. Disastrous changes to housing policy (proposed by Councillor Hollick)

Green member motion

This Council notes the disastrous affect that the proposals in George Osborne's summer budget will have on the Council's ability to fund new social housing and retain existing properties. In addition, the so-called 'pay to stay' measures will cause hardship to many low paid households as identified by organisations including Defend Council Housing.

This Council:

- calls for additional funding to be made available to address the housing crisis in Oxford
- opposes right-to-buy including the extension to housing association properties and agrees to look at alternative housing models that could mitigate the worst impacts of the current RTB proposals
- opposes 'pay to stay' but, if it is to be introduced, agrees to ask for the threshold to be raised to the same as London.

This Council therefore agrees to do all it can to resist these changes and asks the Leader to write to the relevant Ministers making known the Council's views.

6. Implementing the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (proposed by Councillor Benjamin)

Green member motion

This Council notes potential impact of implementing the 'Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015', the Counter Extremism Strategy and the Investigatory Powers Bill on local authorities delivering frontline services, as well as those in the local community, such as landlords and religious leaders.

For example, a recent LGiU briefing highlighted, with reference to the Investigatory Powers Bill that:

"Advances in data capture, storage and analysis mean that local authorities now keep more bulk personal datasets, matching up data from a range of local services. This has enabled them to better understand customers need and target resources. Local Authorities will need to be mindful that such information could be used for security purposes and of the implications of this for their communities."

There is a challenge for specified authorities, including local authorities, schools, the police, health and others, to implement new legal obligations in the exercise of their functions, in order to have 'due regard to the need to

prevent people from being drawn into terrorism' and, especially for schools to promote 'British values', in order to ensure the protection of vulnerable adults and young people at risk of radicalisation.

The legislation, like all laws based on 'suspicion' could breach free speech and professional confidentiality and with its legal obligations places responsibilities on officers of the Council that may be deemed unfair. There is also the fear that a network of false accusations could arise wasting precious police time and stigmatising specific young people. However, these fears and challenges need to be balanced with ensuring that vulnerable people are safeguarded from exploitation by extremists.

This Council therefore asks the Executive Board to work collaboratively and sensitively with officer, professional groups, schools, trade unions, local faith groups and others to ensure that implementation of the new duty is done constructively and in consultation with local communities as appropriate.

20 MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION AND EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

If Council wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any aspects of the preceding agenda items it will be necessary for Council to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 specifying the grounds on which their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Section 15 of the Council's Constitution – sets out the conditions under which the public can be excluded from meetings of the Council)

21 CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX: OXPENS DELIVERY STRATEGY

189 - 192

This is exempt from publication by virtue of Paragraph 3, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 for the following reasons:

- Commercial affairs of the Council.

UPDATES AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SUPPLEMENT THIS AGENDA ARE PUBLISHED IN THE COUNCIL BRIEFING NOTE.

Additional information, councillors' questions, public addresses and amendments to motions are published in a supplementary briefing note. The agenda and briefing note should be read together.

The Briefing Note is published as a supplement to the agenda. It is available on the Friday before the meeting and can be accessed along with the agenda on the council's website.

DECLARING INTERESTS

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed “Declarations of Interest” or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council’s area; licences for land in the Council’s area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor’s Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council’s website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest.

If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members’ Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members’ Code of Conduct says that a member “must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself” and that “you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned”. What this means is that the matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

¹Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those of the member’s spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.