

# Agenda

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## **Delegated Decisions of the Board Member, Corporate Governance and Strategic Partnerships**

Date: **Thursday 13 October 2011**

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Time: **5.00 pm**

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Place: **Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's**

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# Delegated Decisions of the Board Member, Corporate Governance and Strategic Partnerships

## Board Member

## Portfolio

**Councillor Bob Price**

Corporate Governance and  
Strategic Partnerships

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# AGENDA

## PART ONE PUBLIC BUSINESS

### Pages

#### 1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Guidance on personal and personal prejudicial interests is attached to these agenda pages.

#### 2 **PUBLIC ADDRESSES**

Members of the public may, if the Board Member agrees, ask a question of the Board Member on any item for decision on this agenda (other than on the minutes). The full text of any question must be notified to the Head of Law and Governance by no later than 9.30 am two clear working days before the meeting. Questions by the public will be taken as read and, at the Board Member's discretion, responded to either orally or in writing at the meeting. No supplementary question or questioning will be permitted.

The total time permitted for this item will be 15 minutes.

#### 3 **COUNCILLOR ADDRESSES**

City Councillors may, at the Board Member's discretion, ask a question or address the Board Member on an item for decision on the agenda (other than on the minutes). The full text of any question and the nature of any address must be notified to the Head of Law and Governance by no later than 9.30 am two clear working days before the meeting. Questions by councillors will be taken as read and, at the Board Member's discretion, responded to either orally or in writing at the meeting. No supplementary question or questioning will be permitted. If an address is made, the Board member will either respond or have regard to the points raised in reaching her or his decision. If the address is by the Chair of a Scrutiny Committee or her or his nominee then the Board member will be required to say as part of their decision whether they accept the Scrutiny recommendations made.

#### 4 **REVIEW OF OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DIVISION BOUNDARIES**

1 - 4

Lead Member: Councillor Price

Report of the Head of Law and Governance

To agree:

- (a) That the city council should support the Commission's proposed scheme of Electoral Divisions as it relates to Oxford;

(b) That the Commission be requested to amend its proposal for warding for Risinghurst and Sandhills Parish Council as follows:-

- Risinghurst North parish ward should have 10 councillors
- Risinghurst South parish ward should have 2 councillors

## **5 MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION**

If the Board member wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the exempt from publication part of the agenda, it will be necessary for the Board member to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Board member may maintain the exemption 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.

## **DECLARING INTERESTS**

What is a personal interest?

You have a personal interest in a matter if that matter affects the well-being or financial position of you, your relatives or people with whom you have a close personal association more than it would affect the majority of other people in the ward(s) to which the matter relates.

A personal interest can affect you, your relatives or people with whom you have a close personal association positively or negatively. If you or they would stand to lose by the decision, you should also declare it.

You also have a personal interest in a matter if it relates to any interests, which you must register.

### **What do I need to do if I have a personal interest?**

You must declare it when you get to the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you. You may still speak and vote unless it is a prejudicial interest.

If a matter affects a body to which you have been appointed by the authority, or a body exercising functions of a public nature, you only need declare the interest if you are going to speak on the matter.

### **What is a prejudicial interest?**

You have a prejudicial interest in a matter if;

- a) a member of the public, who knows the relevant facts, would reasonably think your personal interest is so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interest; and
- b) the matter affects your financial interests or relates to a licensing or regulatory matter; and
- c) the interest does not fall within one of the exempt categories at paragraph 10(2)(c) of the Code of Conduct.

### **What do I need to do if I have a prejudicial interest?**

If you have a prejudicial interest you must withdraw from the meeting. However, under paragraph 12(2) of the Code of Conduct, if members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about that matter, you may also make representations as if you were a member of the public. However, you must withdraw from the meeting once you have made your representations and before any debate starts.

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# Agenda Item 4

**To: Board Member, Corporate Governance and Strategic Partnerships**

**Date: 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Report of: Head of Law and Governance**

**Title of Report: REVIEW OF OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
DIVISION BOUNDARIES**

## **Summary and Recommendations**

**Purpose of report:** The report deals with the draft proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England ('the Commission') on a scheme of electoral divisions (electoral arrangements) for Oxfordshire County Council.

**Key decision?** No

**Executive lead member:** Councillor Bob Price

**Policy Framework:** n/a

### **Recommendation:**

1. that the City Council should support the Commission's proposed scheme of Electoral Divisions as it relates to Oxford;
2. that the Commission be requested to amend its proposal for warding for Risinghurst and Sandhills Parish Council as follows:-
  - Risinghurst North parish ward should have 10 councillors
  - Risinghurst South parish ward should have 2 councillors.

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England ('the Commission') has conducted a review of Oxfordshire County Council's electoral divisions. It asked interested organisations and the general public for comments on the current arrangements and on possible schemes.
2. The City Council responded to the consultation by submitting a scheme of 14 single-member electoral divisions for Oxford. The submission was approved by City Executive Board on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2011

(minute 176 refers). The County Council submitted an identical scheme.

3. The Commission considered comments received and published its draft scheme for comment. For Oxford the Commission accepted the City Council submission in its entirety.
4. In view of other suggested schemes the City Council would like to underline its support for the Commission's proposed Jericho and Osney and Isis divisions. The Council is of the view it would be a mistake to force together the distinct communities along the Botley Road and along the Abingdon Road. Whereas Botley Road residents look towards Jericho and Carfax, Abingdon Road residents have more in common with the Donnington and Iffley Village communities to which they are joined by Donnington Bridge and Iffley Lock. Iffley Village is a distinct community from the adjacent Rose Hill estate. Thames Street as a busy main road is a significant urban barrier between the two divisions as proposed by the Commission.
5. The proposals are available to view on the Commission's website: [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/oxfordshire](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/oxfordshire)
6. The Commission also proposes to create an additional parish ward in Risinghurst and Sandhills Parish Council because the division scheme cuts through an existing parish ward. This is necessary to enable elections to be run but the proposed parish councillor allocation to the two new parish wards is, in our view, incorrect.

The old parish ward had 2268 electors with 12 parish councillors.

It should be as follows:-

New Parish ward	Electorate	LGCE proposal	City Council proposal
Risinghurst North	2037	6	10
Risinghurst South	231	6	2

7. Comments on the Commission's proposals are invited by 10<sup>th</sup> October. After that date the Commission will consider all submissions and aims to publish its final recommendations in January 2012. Once the Commission agrees its final recommendations it will lay a draft order in both Houses of Parliament. Parliament will then have 40 days in which to consider the recommendations. If both Houses are satisfied with the recommendations, the draft order will be 'made' and the new electoral divisions will come into effect at the County Council elections in May 2013.



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Background papers:           None  
Version number:2.

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