

Notice of a Meeting

Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee **Monday, 13 February 2012 at 10.00 am** **County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND**

Membership

Chairman - Councillor Lawrie Stratford
Deputy Chairman - Councillor Stewart Lilly

Councillors:

John Goddard	Susanna Pressel	Alan Thompson
Alyas Ahmed	John Sanders	Carol Viney
Anthony Gearing	Bill Service	

Notes:

Date of next meeting: 30 April 2012

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

- Community safety; anti-social behaviour; crime and the fear of crime; fire and rescue; consumer protection; emergency planning; police issues; coroner's service; gypsies and travellers; drugs and alcohol awareness; road safety (police, trading standards, fire and rescue); adult learning (oversight of the adult learning service in provider mode); libraries; museums and heritage; the arts; archives; leisure and recreation; registration service; community cohesion; voluntary and community sector.
- The functions of the responsible authorities (local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, the police, primary care trusts and the Probation Service) which comprise a Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership/Community Safety Partnership.
- Those regulatory functions of the Planning & Regulation Committee not falling within the remit of the Growth & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee.

How can I have my say?

We welcome the views of the community on any issues in relation to the responsibilities of this Committee. Members of the public may ask to speak on any item on the agenda or may suggest matters which they would like the Committee to look at. **Requests to speak must be submitted to the Committee Officer below no later than 9 am on the working day before the date of the meeting.**

For more information about this Committee please contact:

Chairman	- Councillor Lawrie Stratford
	E.Mail: lawrie.stratford@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	- Kathrin Luddecke, Tel: (01865) 323965
	kathrin.luddecke@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Peter G. Clark
County Solicitor

February 2012

About the County Council

The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 74 councillors who are democratically elected every four years. The Council provides a range of services to Oxfordshire's 630,000 residents. These include:

schools	social & health care	libraries and museums
the fire service	roads	trading standards
land use	transport planning	waste management

Each year the Council manages £0.9 billion of public money in providing these services. Most decisions are taken by a Cabinet of 9 Councillors, which makes decisions about service priorities and spending. Some decisions will now be delegated to individual members of the Cabinet.

About Scrutiny

Scrutiny is about:

- Providing a challenge to the Cabinet
- Examining how well the Cabinet and the Authority are performing
- Influencing the Cabinet on decisions that affect local people
- Helping the Cabinet to develop Council policies
- Representing the community in Council decision making
- Promoting joined up working across the authority's work and with partners

Scrutiny is NOT about:

- Making day to day service decisions
- Investigating individual complaints.

What does this Committee do?

The Committee meets up to 6 times a year or more. It develops a work programme, which lists the issues it plans to investigate. These investigations can include whole committee investigations undertaken during the meeting, or reviews by a panel of members doing research and talking to lots of people outside of the meeting. Once an investigation is completed the Committee provides its advice to the Cabinet, the full Council or other scrutiny committees. Meetings are open to the public and all reports are available to the public unless exempt or confidential, when the items would be considered in closed session

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named on the front page, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting

A hearing loop is available at County Hall.

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
- 2. Declarations of Interest - see guidance note on the back page**
- 3. Minutes** (Pages 1 - 16)

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 7 November (**SSC3a**), 12 December (**SSC3b**) and 15 December 2011 (**SSC3c**) and to note for information any matters arising from them.

- 4. Speaking to or petitioning the Committee**

- 5. Director's Update** (Pages 17 - 20)

10.15

The Deputy Chief Fire Officer & Acting County Librarian, on behalf of the Director for Social & Community Services, will give verbal updates on key issues affecting their directorate.

As part of the update, a written report on the use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 by Oxfordshire County Council is attached for consideration by the committee (**SSC5**).

SCRUTINY MATTERS

- 6. Draft Oxfordshire Museums Strategy** (Pages 21 - 32)

10.35

Carol Anderson, Museum Service Manager, will present the draft Oxfordshire Museums Strategy (**SSC6**).

The committee is invited to comment before the Strategy is considered by Cabinet in March.

- 7. Integrated risk management plan (IRMP) Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority - Draft action plan 2012-13** (Pages 33 - 42)

10.55

Mat Carlile, Area Manager - Business & Improvement, will give an update on this plan (**SSC7**), following consultation. The draft plan had been discussed by the committee in November 2011.

The committee is invited to make any final comments before Cabinet considers the Plan on 14 February.

8. Draft Proposal to Create a Joint Trading Standards Service between Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire County Councils (Pages 43 - 54)

11.10

In March 2012 Cabinet will consider a proposal to create a joint Trading Standards Service with Buckinghamshire County Council. This proposal results from a period of research into, and evaluation of, the benefits and risks of creating a joint service to fulfil the Council's statutory consumer protection obligations in the most efficient and effective manner.

The report (**SSC8**) will be presented by Sarah Langley, Interim Manager – Trading Standards and outlines the findings from the research that led to the proposals that are to be considered by Cabinet. The Committee is invited to consider the proposal and raise matters that they would wish to be considered or addressed

9. Update on Safer Communities Partnership and Police & Crime Commissioner and Panel (Pages 55 - 58)

11.30

Carys Alty, Manager - Safer Communities Unit, will present an update to clarify the current position regarding preparing for the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the setting up the Thames Valley-wide Police and Crime Panel (PCP) (**SSC9**) which will have implications for local Scrutiny Committees.

BUSINESS PLANNING

10. Forward Plan

11.50

11. Close of Meeting

Declarations of Interest

This note briefly summarises the position on interests which you must declare at the meeting. Please refer to the Members' Code of Conduct in Part 9.1 of the Constitution for a fuller description.

The duty to declare ...

You must always declare any "personal interest" in a matter under consideration, i.e. where the matter affects (either positively or negatively):

- (i) any of the financial and other interests which you are required to notify for inclusion in the statutory Register of Members' Interests; or
- (ii) your own well-being or financial position or that of any member of your family or any person with whom you have a close association more than it would affect other people in the County.

Whose interests are included ...

"Member of your family" in (ii) above includes spouses and partners and other relatives' spouses and partners, and extends to the employment and investment interests of relatives and friends and their involvement in other bodies of various descriptions. For a full list of what "relative" covers, please see the Code of Conduct.

When and what to declare ...

The best time to make any declaration is under the agenda item "Declarations of Interest". Under the Code you must declare not later than at the start of the item concerned or (if different) as soon as the interest "becomes apparent".

In making a declaration you must state the nature of the interest.

Taking part if you have an interest ...

Having made a declaration you may still take part in the debate and vote on the matter unless your personal interest is also a "prejudicial" interest.

"Prejudicial" interests ...

A prejudicial interest is one which a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would think so significant as to be likely to affect your judgment of the public interest.

What to do if your interest is prejudicial ...

If you have a prejudicial interest in any matter under consideration, you may remain in the room but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter under consideration, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

Exceptions ...

There are a few circumstances where you may regard yourself as not having a prejudicial interest or may participate even though you may have one. These, together with other rules about participation in the case of a prejudicial interest, are set out in paragraphs 10 – 12 of the Code.

Seeking Advice ...

It is your responsibility to decide whether any of these provisions apply to you in particular circumstances, but you may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer before the meeting.