

Notice of a Meeting

Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 25 November 2009 at 11.00 am County Hall

Membership

Chairman - Councillor Dr Peter Skolar
Deputy Chairman - Councillor Melinda Tilley

Councillors:

Norman Bolster	Arash Fatemian	Chip Sherwood
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Jean Fooks	David Wilmshurst
Nick Carter	A.M. Lovatt	

Notes:

Date of next meeting: 17 December 2009

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

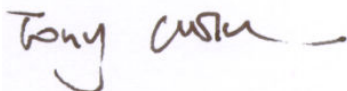
- Corporate and community leadership; corporate strategies; regional issues
- Local strategic partnerships and District Council liaison
- Social inclusion & equality; services for members
- Finance; procurement; property
- Culture change and customer focus; human resources; communications strategy; information and communications technology
- The elections and appointments functions of the Democracy & Organisation Committee
- The functions of the Pension Fund 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 Dr Peter Skolar E.Mail: peter.skolar@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	-	Sue Whitehead, Tel: (01865) 810262 sue.whitehead@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Tony Cloke
Assistant Head of Legal & Democratic Services

November 2009

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 - 4)**

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 24 September 2009 (**SYP3**) and to note for information any matters arising on them.

4. **Speaking to or petitioning the Committee**

SCRUTINY MATTERS

To consider matters where the Committee can provide a challenge to the work of the Authority

5. **Service & Resource Planning 2010/11 - 2014/15 (Pages 5 - 150)**

Contact Officer: Lorna Baxter, Assistant Head of Finance –Resources Tel : 01865 323971

The attached report (**SYP5**) sets out the Business Improvement & Efficiency Strategies for each Directorate and the identified pressures and proposed savings contained therein. The Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee is meeting prior to the December round of Scrutiny Committees to consider the overall position for the Council, the balance of pressures and savings across the Directorates and the the Business Improvement & Efficiency Strategies for all Directorates. Each Scrutiny Committee will then consider the strategies for their programme areas with comments from each being passed back to Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee in January 2010, in order that the committee can then feed back to Cabinet in time for consideration as part of their budget proposals.

The Scrutiny Committee is invited to :

- a. ***comment on the overall Council position and the balance of pressures and savings across the directorates;***
- b. ***note that the Directorate Business Improvement & Efficiency Strategies plus the pressures and savings therein will be considered by the Service Scrutiny committees, their comments being fed back to Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee for consideration in January 2010;***
- c. ***consider whether the Council tax increase in the existing MTFP is still appropriate recognising that any reduction would require further savings to be identified; and***
- d. ***agree to invite the chairs of the Service Scrutiny Committees to attend***

***the Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee on 17th December 2009
to comment on the capital proposals.***

6. Scrutiny of Partnerships

To consider the factors relevant in taking forward the scrutiny of partnerships.

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 Section DD of the Constitution for a fuller description.

The duty to declare ...

You must always declare any "personal interest" in a matter under consideration, ie 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.