



## ***Notice of a Meeting***

### **Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee**

**Thursday, 17 January 2013 at 10.00 am**

**STFC Electron Building, Fermi Avenue, Harwell OX11 0QR**

#### **Membership**

Chairman - Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

Deputy Chairman - Councillor Ray Jelf

#### *Councillors:*

David Turner  
Marilyn Badcock  
Norman Bolster

Liz Brighthouse OBE  
Tim Hallchurch MBE  
Caroline Newton

Larry Sanders  
David Wilmshurst

#### **Notes:**

***Date of next meeting: 25 February 2013***

#### **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 Lorraine Lindsay-Gale E.Mail: <a href="mailto:lorraine.lindsay-gale@oxfordshire.gov.uk">lorraine.lindsay-gale@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Committee Officer	-	<i>Julia Lim</i> , Tel: (01865) 816009 <a href="mailto:julia.lim@oxfordshire.gov.uk">julia.lim@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>

Peter G. Clark  
County Solicitor

January 2013

## 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 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the Strategy & Partnerships meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

## 4. Speaking to or petitioning the Committee

## 5. Director's Update

10.10

Sue Scane (Assistant Chief Executive and Chief Finance Officer) will provide an update on key issues which relate to the committee's remit.

## 6. Service & Resource Planning 2013/14 - 2016/17 - Comments from Scrutiny Meetings 10/1/13

10.25

The Cabinet is seeking an overall view from the Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee to assist it on 29 January 2013 with proposing the revenue budget for 2013/14, Medium Term Financial Plan and Capital Programme from 2013/14-2016/17, for recommendation to Council.

Attached are the scrutiny committees' comments made on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013 on their respective programme areas (paper to follow as an addenda).

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to formulate an overall view and comment to the Cabinet.

The Council is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and so these strategies have not been copied again. Copies have been placed on the web. If Members of the Committee have not retained their original copies and would like a further paper copy, please contact the Policy Officer whose details are on the agenda. It is more efficient for the Council to produce any copies needed centrally rather than for individual Members to print them.

## 7. The Council's Corporate Plan 2013/14 - 2016/17 - Draft (Pages 7 - 44)

10.40

Opportunity for the committee to consider the council's draft Corporate Plan prior to discussion at Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> January. John Courouble (Corporate Policy Manager) will present the plan.

## **8. Customer Service Update** (Pages 45 - 50)

11.00

It was agreed at Cabinet in October that Strategy & Partnerships should receive a report on performance within the customer service centre and have an opportunity to discuss progress. Graham Shaw (Deputy Director – Customer Services, Environment & Economy) will present the progress report.

## **9. Outline Governance Review Conclusions** (Pages 51 - 64)

11.20

In May 2012 the Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee was commissioned by the Cabinet to conduct a review of governance within the council and look at options for improving member involvement in policy development.

Alexandra Bailey (Research & Major Programmes Manager) will present the headline recommendations of the governance review which has been led by Cllr Lindsay-Gale and the Strategy & Partnerships Working Group.

The Committee is asked to comment on the proposals prior to a final report being developed.

## **10. Equalities Annual Update** (Pages 65 - 98)

11.45

Alexandra Bailey will present a report on progress in the first year of the Equality Policy 2012-2017. The Council is required to set specific equality objectives and report annually on progress towards its objectives.

The Committee is asked to comment on the report prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

## **11. Financial Monitoring Overview 2012/13** (Pages 99 - 112)

12.00

The Leader of Council will provide a commentary on financial monitoring up to the end of October 2012.

The Committee is asked to comment on the report.

## **12. Forward Plan**

12.15

The committee is asked to suggest items from the current Forward Plan on which it may wish to have an opportunity to offer advice to Cabinet before any decision is taken.

The current corporate plan can be found on the Council's website:  
<http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=159&RP=115>

## **13. Close of Meeting**

12.20

## Declarations of Interest

### The duty to declare.....

Under the Localism Act 2011 it is a criminal offence to

- (a) fail to register a disclosable pecuniary interest within 28 days of election or co-option (or re-election or re-appointment), or
- (b) provide false or misleading information on registration, or
- (c) participate in discussion or voting in a meeting on a matter in which the member or co-opted member has a disclosable pecuniary interest.

### Whose Interests must be included?

The Act provides that the interests which must be notified are those of a member or co-opted member of the authority, **or**

- those of a spouse or civil partner of the member or co-opted member;
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as husband/wife
- those of a person with whom the member or co-opted member is living as if they were civil partners.

(in each case where the member or co-opted member is aware that the other person has the interest).

### What if I remember that I have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest during the Meeting?.

The Code requires that, at a meeting, where a member or co-opted member has a disclosable interest (of which they are aware) in any matter being considered, they disclose that interest to the meeting. The Council will continue to include an appropriate item on agendas for all meetings, to facilitate this.

Although not explicitly required by the legislation or by the code, it is recommended that in the interests of transparency and for the benefit of all in attendance at the meeting (including members of the public) the nature as well as the existence of the interest is disclosed.

A member or co-opted member who has disclosed a pecuniary interest at a meeting must not participate (or participate further) in any discussion of the matter; and must not participate in any vote or further vote taken; and must withdraw from the room.

Members are asked to continue to pay regard to the following provisions in the code that *“You must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself”* or *“You must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned.....”*.

Please seek advice from the Monitoring Officer prior to the meeting should you have any doubt about your approach.

### List of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

**Employment** (includes *“any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain”*.), **Sponsorship, Contracts, Land, Licences, Corporate Tenancies, Securities.**

For a full list of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and further Guidance on this matter please see the Guide to the New Code of Conduct and Register of Interests at Members’ conduct guidelines. <http://intranet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wps/wcm/connect/occ/Insite/Elected+members/> or contact Rachel Dunn on (01865) 815279 or [Rachel.dunn@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.dunn@oxfordshire.gov.uk) for a hard copy of the document.