

## Notice of a Meeting

### Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 23 February 2010 at 10.00 am County Hall

#### Membership

Chairman - Councillor Ann Bonner  
Deputy Chairman – Councillor Neil Owen

<i>Councillors:</i>	M. Altaf-Khan Marilyn Badcock Roger Belson	Anda Fitzgerald- O'Connor Janet Godden Pete Handley	Tony Harbour Dave Sexon Val Smith
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<i>Co-optees:</i>	Mr Chris Bevan 1 Vacancy	Mrs Sue Matthew	Mrs Galina Kildyushova
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#### Notes:

**Date of next meeting: 25 May 2010**

#### What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

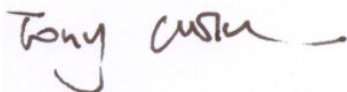
- Services for children, young people and families; preventative services; child protection; family support, educational policy; youth service; youth justice;
- Primary & secondary schools; special education; pupil services; school transport; music service

#### 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 Ann Bonner E.Mail: ann.bonner@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	-	Deborah Miller, Tel: (01865) 815384 deborah.millier@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Tony Cloke  
Assistant Head of Legal & Democratic Services

February 2010

## 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**

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 8 December 2009 (**CH3**) 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. **Bullying**

**10.10 am**

This item was one of the three principal topics earmarked for review by this Committee.

The Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator and Service Manager responsible for bullying will be reviewing the anti-bullying strategy with multi-agency partners in the near future. They would welcome the comments and recommendations of the Committee to inform this review. The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the current strategy attached at **CH5**, together with a presentation at the committee meeting.

The latest performance data will be released by TELLUS in the coming days. A briefing summarising the findings of the survey will be circulated to all members of the Committee under separate cover.

The Committee will receive an initial presentation from Ms Jo Brown, Anti-Bullying Coordinator, Rennie Thompson, Service Manager and Katie McGraw, National Management Trainee and will then be invited to conduct a question and answer session. Chief Inspector Lindsey Finch and Dave Parry, the Youth Justice Manager, Thames Valley Police will also be available to contribute to the debate.

***The Committee is invited to forward any comments and/or advice to the Director for Children, Young People & Families.***

## 6. School Enrolment

**11.10 am**

In October this Committee agreed its future work programme including the wish to conduct further investigation into the area of school enrolment.

The Committee is invited to consider a briefing paper (**CH6**) on the impact on school enrolment of the rising influx of children from the independent sector into state schools and what steps the Authority is taking to address it.

Mr Roy Leach, Strategic Lead, School Organisation & Planning will be available to answer any questions the Committee may wish to ask on the briefing.

***The Committee is invited to consider whether this is an area that requires further investigation.***

## **BUSINESS PLANNING**

**To consider future work items for the Committee**

## 7. Children's Services Seminar

**11.55 am**

As part of its work programme, the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee will be holding a Seminar to look at the Dissolution of the Learning & Skills Council, Transitioning Young People into Employment and Reducing Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs) in Oxfordshire.

The Seminar will be held at **County Hall on Tuesday 23 March 2010 at 2.00 pm**. All Members of the Council have been invited to attend the Seminar.

A proposed Agenda for the Seminar will be circulated at the Meeting.

## 8. Children's Centres Programme

**12.10 pm**

In October this Committee agreed its future work programme including the wish to monitor the progress of the Children's Centres Programme.

The Committee is invited to consider a briefing paper (**CH8**) on the current progress of the programme.

Ms Claire Abolins will be available to answer any questions the Committee may wish to ask on the briefing.

***The Committee is invited to consider whether this is an area that requires further investigation.***

## **9. Forward Plan**

**12:30 pm**

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 the Cabinet before any decision is taken, together with details of what it thinks could be achieved by looking at any items.

## **REVIEW WORK**

**To take evidence, receive progress updates and consider tracking reports**

## **10. Educational Attainment Scrutiny Review - Update**

**12:35 pm**

An update will be given by the Policy and Review Officer and members of the Working Group.

## **11. Close of Meeting**

**12:40 pm**

## 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.