

## Notice of a Meeting

### Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 15 March 2012 at 10.00 am County Hall

#### Membership

Chairman - Councillor Nick Carter  
Deputy Chairman - Councillor Sandy Lovatt

*Councillors:*

Jean Fooks	Tim Hallchurch MBE	Dr Peter Skolar
Norman Bolster	Hilary Hibbert-Biles	David Wilmshurst
Liz Brighthouse OBE	Chip Sherwood	

#### Notes:

**Date of next meeting:** 31 May 2012

#### 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 Nick Carter E.Mail: <a href="mailto:nick.carter@oxfordshire.gov.uk">nick.carter@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

March 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 - 10)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2012 (**SYP3**) and to receive information arising from them.

- 4. Speaking to or petitioning the Committee**

- 5. Director's Update**

10.10

The Assistant Chief Executive and Director of Environment and Economy will give a verbal update on key issues.

- 6. Pensions Update** (Pages 11 - 14)

10.25

Sean Collins (Service Manager Pensions, Insurance and Money Management) will update the committee on proposed changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme, including changes to contributions from 2012 and the revised system from 2015.

- 7. Financial Monitoring Overview 2011/12** (Pages 15 - 30)

10.45

Commentary by Cabinet Member for Finance.

The report provides a commentary on the financial monitoring to the end of January 2012.

Contact officer: Kathy Wilcox, Principal Financial Manager 01865 323981

- 8. Academies and LACSEG funding**

11.00

Simon Pickard (Finance Business Partner CEF) will give a presentation to explain the Council's current understanding of the financial impact of schools' conversion to Academies with particular reference to the Local Authority Central Spend Equivalent Grant (LACSEG). This follows the Department for Education's consultation on Academies funding which closed in January 2012.

## **9. Oxfordshire County Council's Approach to Strategic Commissioning**

(Pages 31 - 38)

11.15

Following a request at the January meeting to explore risks associated with the externalisation of services Stephen McHale (County Procurement Manager) will outline the Council's approach to procurement and how risk is effectively managed within it.

## **10. Health, Wellbeing and Social Care** (Pages 39 - 94)

11.35

Jonathan McWilliam Director of Public Health for Oxfordshire will update the committee on key changes within the health, well being and social care agenda including local government's new responsibilities for Public Health.

## **11. Oxfordshire County Council Restructuring** (Pages 95 - 104)

12.05

Steve Munn (Head of Human Resources) will provide the committee with details of the Council's new structure and how staff have been supported during recent re-organisations.

**Although the report itself does not contain exempt information and is available to the public, Annex A has not been made public and should be regarded as strictly private to members and officers entitled to receive it.**

*The public should be excluded during discussion of Annex A because its discussion in public would be likely to lead to the disclosure to members of the public present of information in the following prescribed category:*

*3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and since it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.*

## **12. Forward Plan**

12.20

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. The current Forward Plan can be found on the Council's website: <http://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=143&RP=115>

## **13. Close of Meeting**

12:30

## 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.