

## Notice of a Meeting

### Growth & Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee Monday, 25 June 2012 at 10.00 am County Hall

#### Membership

Chairman - Councillor David Nimmo-Smith  
Deputy Chairman - Councillor Nicholas P. Turner

Councillors:

Anne Purse	Patrick Greene	G.A. Reynolds
Alan Armitage	Pete Handley	John Tanner
Michael Gibbard	Charles Mathew	

#### Notes:

*Date of next meeting: 17 September 2012*

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

- Transport; highways; traffic and parking; road safety (those areas not covered by the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee); public passenger transport
- Regional planning and local development framework; economic development; waste management; environmental management; archaeology; access to the countryside; tourism
- The planning, highways, rights of way and commons/village greens functions of the Planning & Regulation 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 David Nimmo-Smith E.Mail: david.nimmo-smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	-	<i>Giacomo Esposito</i> , Tel: (01865) 816382 giacomo.esposito@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Peter G. Clark  
County Solicitor

June 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 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April (GI3a) and note matters arising from them.

To also approve the minutes of the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May (GI3b) to appoint the Chairman & Deputy Chairman for 2012/13

- 4. Speaking to or petitioning the Committee**

- 5. Master Planning in Oxfordshire**

10.15

Martin Tugwell, Deputy Director, Growth and Infrastructure, and Daniel Round, Bicester Strategy Manager, Highways and Transport, will update the committee on the County Council's approach to master planning work in Oxfordshire. Members will be invited to consider the broad principles underpinning the county council's work, the opportunities presented by working in partnership with the district councils, and the issues that need to be addressed in future master planning work.

- 6. Policy on Road Adoption**

11.15

Over the past few years Members have raised concerns regarding the timeliness of adoption highways that are constructed as part of new developments, under Section 38 of the Highways Act.

Mark Kemp, Interim Deputy Director, Highways and Transport, will provide the committee with an explanation of the current legal framework and some of the issues that this presents the Highway Authority with in terms of adoption. Members will be invited to discuss what further information they would like to see in relation to this area.

- 7. Summer Road Works**

12.15

Mark Kemp, Interim Deputy Director, Highways and Transport, will outline the programme for carriageway and footway maintenance for the 12/13 financial year.

- 8. Close of Meeting**

12.45

## 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.

# Public Document Pack **Agenda Item 3**

## **GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Monday, 23 April 2012 commencing at 10.00 am and finishing at 12.25 pm

**Present:**

**Voting Members:** Councillor David Nimmo-Smith – in the Chair

Councillor Nicholas P. Turner (Deputy Chairman)

Councillor Anne Purse

Councillor Michael Gibbard

Councillor Patrick Greene

Councillor Pete Handley

Councillor Charles Mathew

Councillor John Tanner

Councillor David Turner

**Other Members in Attendance:**

**By Invitation:**

**Officers:** Alexandra Bailey, Scrutiny Officer

Whole of meeting

Part of meeting

**Agenda Item                      Officer Attending**

*The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.*

**58/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS**

(Agenda No. 1)

Councillor Bill Service substituted for Councillor Keith Strangwood

**59/12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE**

(Agenda No. 2)

Councillor Nick Turner as a member of Banbury National Farmer's Union

Councillor David Turner as a member of Culham Site

**60/12 MINUTES**  
(Agenda No. 3)

The minutes of the meeting of 27 February 2012 were approved by the committee.

**61/12 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE**  
(Agenda No. 4)

There were no requests to speak or petition the committee.

**62/12 DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**  
(Agenda No. 5)

Martin Tugwell, Deputy Director for Growth and Infrastructure stated that the Council had signed a single contract for the property and facilities management. This contract fell under the remit of the Strategy and Partnerships Scrutiny Committee; however the signing of the contract provided an opportunity to reflect on the most appropriate structure for the directorate going forward. The directorate is being restructured to bring together strategy and policy under one deputy director and contract and operations under a second. The new structure will come into effect on 2 July 2012.

The Minerals and Waste Development Framework was approved by Council and will be published in early May 2012.

Martin Tugwell explained that the council had a clear legal position on the A4130 and had secured the land necessary to deliver the road. The council was pursuing the matter through all appropriate legal channels and all responses to the consultation will be given to the inspector as part of the examination of the matter.

Councillor Bill Service asked for an update on the future of Didcot Power Station. Martin Tugwell replied that he was unaware of specific plans for the power station beyond 2015 but undertook to provide Councillor Service with an update. Councillor David Turner spoke in support of concerns that had been raised about the road capacity in Didcot.

Councillor Greene asked for an update on the matter he had raised at the previous meeting about railway bridges that are subject to electrification.

Martin Tugwell undertook to provide an update to Councillor Greene on the matter.

Councillor Nick Turner asked about the impact of the Energy from Waste Plant being built in Buckinghamshire. Martin Tugwell agreed to provide Councillor Turner with an update on the matter. Councillor Purse asked about the impact of the incinerator on health and Martin Tugwell reassured her that this was being managed by the Environment Agency.

**63/12 THE COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE**  
(Agenda No. 6)

The committee received a number of presentations on the work of the Countryside Service, the Chilterns Society and the Forest Wychwood Project. The Countryside Service undertook to circulate the Countryside Service structure chart to members of the committee.

The committee expressed its thanks for the presentations and its support for the work of the Chiltern Society and the Forest Wychwood Project.

The council discussed the difficulties in managing public rights of way on private land and emphasised the importance of working with private landowners. The committee explored a number of issues in respect of the management of rights of way including the fencing and gating of footpaths; shooting near footpaths; leveraging funding from private landowners and the protection of wildflowers and biodiversity.

The Committee considered work being done to protect and encourage woodland in Oxfordshire. It was clarified that farmers can only succeed in being given grants for woodland if they are planting sufficient trees to qualify for forestry commission funding. The Woodland Trust is committed to planting and protecting trees and work with local communities to do the same. There is greater support and engagement for this work in rural areas than in urban and consideration should be given to how best to engage urban communities in open space planning and development.

The Committee emphasised the importance of open spaces to residents and to Oxfordshire’s economic growth. The Committee was keen to ensure that open space was considered a core part of the infrastructure of Oxfordshire and supported the work that the service did to map and quantify the value of open spaces in Oxfordshire.

**64/12 CLOSE OF MEETING**  
(Agenda No. 7)

The meeting closed at 12.25 pm

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....

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## **GROWTH & INFRASTRUCTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES** of the meeting held on Tuesday, 15 May 2012 commencing at 11:44 am and finishing at 11.46 am

**Present:**

**Voting Members:**

Councillor Alan Armitage  
Councillor Michael Gibbard  
Councillor Patrick Greene  
Councillor Pete Handley  
Councillor Charles Mathew  
Councillor David Nimmo-Smith  
Councillor Anne Purse  
Councillor G.A. Reynolds  
Councillor John Tanner  
Councillor Nicholas P. Turner

**Officers:** Peter Clark, County Solicitor & Monitoring Officer; Sue Whitehead (Chief Executive's Office)

*The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters referred to in the agenda for the meeting and agreed as set out below.*

### **65/12 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2012/13 COUNCIL YEAR**

(Agenda No. 1)

Councillor Nicholas Turner moved and Councillor Reynolds seconded that Councillor Nimmo-Smith be elected Chairman of the Committee for the 2012/13 Council Year.

Councillor Armitage moved and Councillor Anne Purse seconded that Councillor Tanner be elected Chairman of the Committee for the 2012/13 Council Year.

Following a vote by a show of hands it was:

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Nimmo-Smith be elected Chairman of the Committee for the 2012/13 Council Year.

### **66/12 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN FOR THE 2012/13 COUNCIL YEAR**

(Agenda No. 2)

Councillor Nimmo-Smith moved and Councillor Handley seconded that Councillor Nicholas Turner be elected Deputy Chairman of the Committee for the 2012/13 Council Year.

Councillor Armitage moved and Councillor Anne Purse seconded that Councillor Anne Purse be elected Deputy Chairman of the Committee for the 2012/13 Council Year.

Following a vote by a show of hands it was:

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Nicholas Turner be elected Deputy Chairman of the Committee for the 2012/13 Council Year.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing .....