

## Notice of a Meeting

### Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 26 July 2012 at 10.00 am County Hall

#### Membership

Chairman - Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale  
Deputy Chairman - Councillor Ray Jelf

*Councillors:*

David Turner	Liz Brighthouse OBE	Larry Sanders
Marilyn Badcock	Tim Hallchurch MBE	David Wilmshurst
Norman Bolster	Caroline Newton	

#### Notes:

**Date of next meeting: 4 October 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 Lorraine Lindsay-Gale E.Mail: <a href="mailto:lorraine.lindsay-gale@oxfordshire.gov.uk">lorraine.lindsay-gale@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>
Committee Officer	-	Julia Lim, Tel: (01865) 816009 <a href="mailto:julia.lim@oxfordshire.gov.uk">julia.lim@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>



Peter G. Clark  
County Solicitor

July 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)

10.05

To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 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 Chief Finance Officer will give a verbal update on key issues of relevance to the committee.

- 6. Update from the Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Working Group**

10.30

Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale (Chairman of the Working Group) will provide a brief update on the activity it has undertaken so far, including an all Members survey and welcome comments from the rest of the committee.

- 7. Briefing on the Localism Act 2011**

10.40

Peter Clark (Monitoring Officer & Head of Law and Governance) and Julia Lim (Senior Policy and Performance Officer) will outline the key features of the Localism Act of relevance to the County Council.

This presentation follows an item the committee received in January 2012 on the Localism Act where it was agreed that the committee would return to elements of the Act later in the year. As a number of provisions within the Act are now in force this is a useful time to consider it again.

- 8. Update on the Local Government Resource Review & Changes to Local Government Finance**

11.10

Terms of reference for the Local Government Resource Review were published in March 2011. The review aims to explore ways in which local government can become less dependent on central funding, with the crucial proposal being the relocalisation of business rates. Changes will come into force in April 2013.

This presentation will explore how the County Council is likely to be funded differently in future. It aims to give Members greater understanding of the financial issues ahead of the 2013/14 service and resource planning process. It is an opportunity for Members to learn about forthcoming changes. It links specifically to the Committee's finance responsibilities.

## **9. Financial Monitoring report - Revenue & Capital Outturn Overview**

(Pages 7 - 20)

11.40

Commentary by Cabinet Member for Finance and Police.

This report provides a summary of the outturn position as at 31 March 2012. It is an opportunity for the Committee to review the position and probe into any areas they wish to explore further as part of their remit for finance. (SYP9a, SYP9b)

Contact Officer: Kathy Wilcox, Principal Financial Manager 01865 323981

## **10. Forward Plan** (Pages 21 - 40)

11.55

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 item and propose any other relevant items for the Committee to consider. (SYP10a)

An informal forward plan of issues the committee has previously expressed an interest in exploring is also attached for discussion. (SYP10b)

## **11. Close of Meeting**

12:10

## 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.