

Notice of a Meeting

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 5 November 2009 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	Mrs Sue Matthew	Mrs Galina Kildyusho va
	1 Vacancy		

Notes: *Members are asked to note that there will not be a pre-meet for this meeting.*

Date of next meeting: 8 December 2009

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

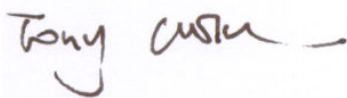
- Services for children, young people and families; preventative services; child protection; family support, educational policy; youth service; youth justice;
- Primary & secondary schools; special education; pupil services; school transport; music service

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	-	Julie Dean, Tel: (01865) 815322 julie.dean@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Tony Cloke
Assistant Head of Legal & Democratic Services

27 October 2009

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 - 22)**

To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 22 September 2009 (**CH3(a)**) and 5 October (**CH3(b)**) and to note for information any matters arising on them.

- 4. Speaking to or petitioning the Committee**

BUSINESS PLANNING

To consider future work items for the Committee

- 5. Scrutiny Work Programme 2009/10 - Children's Services (Pages 23 - 24)**

10.15 am

To discuss operational matters with regard to the Committee's Work Plan. A matrix is attached at **CH5**.

- 6. Learning & Skills Council Dissolution and Law Change - Presentation**

10.25 am

This item is one of the three principle topics earmarked at the last meeting for review, the others being 'Bullying in Schools' and 'Science in Schools and the Community'. Plans are underway for presentations to be given at the 23 February meeting on the latter two topics.

A presentation will be made by Sandra Higgs, Strategy Leader, 14 – 19 Oxfordshire after which there will be a question & answer session. A brief which has been prepared by the officers will follow.

SCRUTINY MATTERS

To consider matters where the Committee can provide a challenge to the work of the Authority

- 7. Draft Oxfordshire Children & Young People's Plan 2010-13 (Pages 25 - 56)**

11.10 am

This is an opportunity for the Committee to feed any advice/comment to Cabinet in relation to the draft Plan , prior to its submission for approval to the 15 December Cabinet.

The draft Plan can be found at **CH7**.

REVIEW WORK

To take evidence, receive progress updates and consider tracking reports

8. Monitoring - Young Carer's Scrutiny Review (Pages 57 - 126)

11.45 pm

The purpose of this agenda item is to evaluate, 12 months on from the Cabinet's consideration of the review, what progress has been made in implementing the recommendations that were agreed. The review was undertaken by Councillors Anda Fitzgerald O'Connor, Carol Viney and David Turner, together with Ben Jackson, a former co-optee of the Committee.

Councillor David Turner, as lead member, has been tracking the review and he has been invited to attend.

Councillors Michael Waine and Louise Chapman have also been invited to attend to respond to any questions members of the Committee might have with regard to the tracking report, together with Children, Young People & Families officers Deborah Parkhouse and Hannah Farncombe.

Copies of the full review is attached at **CH8(a)**, the Executive Summary at **CH8(b)** and the tracking report at **CH8(c)**.

9. Educational Attainment Scrutiny Review - update

12.15 pm

An update will be given by the members of the Working Group.

10. Teenage Conception Review - update

12.20 pm

An update will be given by members of the Working Group.

11. Close of Meeting

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.