

## ***Notice of a Meeting***

### **Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee Monday, 14 September 2009 at 10.00 am County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND**

#### **Membership**

Chairman - Councillor Lawrie Stratford  
Deputy Chairman - Councillor Carol Viney

*Councillors:*           Alyas Ahmed                   John Goddard                   Steve Hayward  
                              Peter Jones                   Stewart Lilly                 Sajjad Hussain Malik  
                              Susanna Pressel             Bill Service

**Notes:**           *Date of next meeting: 26 October 2009*

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

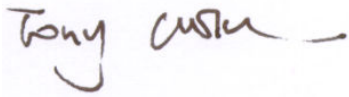
- Community safety; anti-social behaviour; crime and the fear of crime; fire and rescue; consumer protection; emergency planning; police issues; coroner's service; gypsies and travellers; drugs and alcohol awareness; road safety (police, trading standards, fire and rescue); adult learning (oversight of the adult learning service in provider mode); libraries; museums and heritage; the arts; archives; leisure and recreation; registration service; community cohesion; equalities and social inclusion; voluntary and community sector.
- The functioning of the responsible authorities (local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, the police, primary care trusts) which comprise a Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership/Community Safety Partnership.
- Those regulatory functions of the Planning & Regulation Committee not falling within the remit of the Growth & Infrastructure Scrutiny 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 Lawrie Stratford E.Mail: Lawrie.Stratford@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	-	Kath Coldwell, Tel: (01865) 815902 E.Mail: kath.coldwell@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Tony Cloke  
Assistant Head of Legal & Democratic Services

September 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 10 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**
3. **Minutes**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2009 (**SSC3**) and to note any matters arising on them.

4. **Speaking to or petitioning the Committee**

### **BUSINESS PLANNING**

To consider future work items for the Committee

5. **Presentations from the Safer and Stronger Communities Field**

**10:15**

Officers from the Safer and Stronger Communities field will inform the scrutiny committee about (a) their service areas (b) the challenges and priorities facing their areas for the period 2009/10:

- **Fire & Rescue** – Director for Community Safety & Shared Services and Chief Fire Officer
- **Community Safety** – Head of Service – Community Safety & Trading Standards
- **Emergency Planning** – County Emergency Planning Officer
- **Coroners Service** – Assistant Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Officers will inform the scrutiny committee about their service areas and how they add value:

- **Community Cohesion** – Safer Communities Unit Manager, Voluntary Sector Development Manager and Strategic Partnerships Manager
- **Equalities and Social Inclusion** – Corporate Strategies Manager

A presentation from Community Services will be given to this Committee's October meeting.

## 6. Annual Scrutiny Work Programme September 2009 - July 2010

**11:15**

*Contact: Sean Gibson, Corporate Performance Adviser, (01865) 815482*

The proposed scrutiny work programme consists of ideas generated by members, officers and the public. Each idea has been assessed against the criteria outlined in the proposal form. This includes an analysis of how the proposed review relates to the council's strategic priorities, its current performance in this area and whether it is an area where scrutiny can contribute to upstream policy development. The proposed reviews were discussed with the relevant directors or heads of service and their comments are included on the proposal form for members to consider.

Members are asked to consider the proposals relevant to their committee (**SSC6 – to follow**) and to decide which work they wish to undertake and with what priority.

***The Committee is asked to identify its priorities for its work programme, including its first choice activity.***

### INFORMATION SHARE

## 7. Fire Service Command and Control Room - the FiReControl and FireLink Projects

**12:15**

Mr Colin Thomas (Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Head of Service Support) will answer any questions which the Committee wishes to ask.

Subject Matter	Document
Written update on progress of the Fire Service Command and Control Room (FiReControl and FireLink Projects)	SSC7

### BUSINESS PLANNING

To consider future work items for the Committee

## 8. Forward Plan

**12:35**

The Committee is asked to note any items of interest.

## 9. Tracking Scrutiny Items

**12:45**

Report back on advice given by this Committee to the Cabinet, full Council, other scrutiny committees, relevant strategic partnership bodies and other organisations where appropriate.

There is nothing to report at present.

### **12:50 approx 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.