

# Notice of a Meeting

## Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 14 February 2011 at 10.00 am

County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND

### Membership

Chairman - Councillor Lawrie Stratford

Deputy Chairman - Councillor Carol Viney

### Councillors:

John Goddard  
Patrick Greene  
Stewart Lilly

Lorraine Lindsay-  
Gale  
Sajjad Hussain Malik  
Susanna Pressel

Bill Service  
Alan Thompson

### Notes:

**Date of next meeting: 9 May 2011**

#### 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 functions of the responsible authorities (local authorities, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, the police, primary care trusts and the Probation Service) 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](mailto:lawrie.stratford@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
Committee Officer - Sean Gibson  
Tel: (01865) 815482  
Email: [sean.gibson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sean.gibson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



Peter G. Clark  
County Solicitor

February 2011

## **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 meetings held on 8 November 2010 (**SSC3a**) and 20 December 2010 (**SSC3b**) and any matters arising on them.

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

## **5. Director's Update** 10.15

The Director for Community Safety & Shared Services, the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and the Acting Head of Community Safety and Trading Standards will give verbal updates on key issues.

## **SCRUTINY MATTERS**

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

## **6. The Big Society and Locality Reviews** 10.45

*Contact Officer: Alexandra Bailey, Corporate Performance and Review Manager, 01865 816384*

Fourteen locality reviews are to be undertaken which will aim to

- Understand the current profile of the locality (services, assets and current voluntary sector activity)
- Understand the overall impact of proposed service reductions on local communities
- Identify and encourage Big Society solutions
- Identify opportunities to rationalise property and services outlets

Community responses to the Big Society challenge will be able to bid for a pump-priming grant from the Big Society Fund. These will be considered in two steps:

- Expressions of interest (January to end of February)
- Applications (March to end of June)

***The committee is invited to receive an update from the Corporate Performance and Review Manager.***

## **7. Crime and Disorder Annual Review**

**11.30**

*Contact Officers: Richard Webb, Acting Head of Community Safety and Trading Standards;*

*Ruth Whyte, Manager - Safer Communities Unit, 01865 815396*

Every local authority must create or designate a crime and disorder committee. This committee may be new or an existing committee may take on this role. The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee is currently constituted to take on this role for the County Council.

The purpose of a crime and disorder committee is to:

- a) review or scrutinise decisions made/actions taken by the “responsible authorities” in the exercise of their crime and disorder functions; and
- b) make reports or recommendations to the local authority with respect to the discharge of those functions.

The responsible authorities in Oxfordshire are: Oxfordshire County Council, District Councils, Thames Valley Police, Thames Valley Police Authority, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority, Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust and the Probation Service.

In relation to the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) it will be natural for this Committee to scrutinise the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP) rather than the individual CDRPs, which lend themselves more readily to scrutiny by the district council scrutiny committees.

Members are reminded that this committee in its role as a crime and disorder committee will need to look at how the different partners come together (how the OSCP is co-ordinating its work to deliver positive outcomes) and what outcomes they are achieving, rather than focusing on one partner.

Councillor Kieron Mallon, the Chairman of the OSCP, has been invited for this agenda item.

A briefing paper will be circulated separately.

***The Committee is invited to consider how the different partners are working together to deliver positive outcomes.***

## **8. Draft OFRS Integrated Risk Management Action Plan (IRMP) 2011-12**

(Pages 11 - 16)

**11.45**

*Contact Officer: Colin Thomas, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, 01865 855206*

At the November meeting Scrutiny Committee members commented on the individual projects and agreed that if possible following consultation, the plan be brought back to the Scrutiny Committee prior to final consideration by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet will be asked to approve the attached Draft Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS) Integrated Risk Management Action Plan (IRMP) 2011-12 on 16 February 2011 (**SSC8**).

***The Committee is invited to comment on the final plan prior to Cabinet consideration.***

## **9. Regional Control Room Project Cancellation**

**12.00**

*Contact Officer: Colin Thomas, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, 01865 855206*

To brief committee on the benefits secured, the immediate implications and the development work on options for the future.

## **BUSINESS PLANNING**

**To consider future work items for the Committee**

## **10. Scrutiny Work Programme**

**12.20**

*Contact Officer: Sean Gibson, Corporate Performance Adviser, 01865 815482*

To consider current work plan and make amendments if necessary.

## **11. Forward Plan**

**12.35**

The Committee is asked to note any items of interest on the current version of the Forward Plan which covers the time period March 2011 to June 2011.

## **INFORMATION SHARE**

### **Localism Bill**

The new Localism Bill (which was laid before Parliament on 13 December 2010) is intended to provide new power and freedoms to councils and neighbourhoods. The Bill

is very wide-ranging, and amongst other things is likely to have implications for our Big Society proposals and planning / infrastructure funding strategies.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/decentralisation/localismbill/>

**12.45 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 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, 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.