

Notice of a Meeting

Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 9 May 2011 at 09.30 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: 4 July 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
Committee Officer	- Sean Gibson Tel: (01865) 815482 Email: sean.gibson@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Peter G. Clark
County Solicitor

April 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 - 8)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 February 2011 (**SSC3**) and any matters arising on them.

- 4. Speaking to or petitioning the Committee**

- 5. Director's Update**
9.45

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

SCRUTINY MATTERS

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

- 6. Thames Valley Police: Presentation and Q&A**
10.15

The presentation from the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police will cover performance in priority crime and other measures such as confidence and satisfaction. The presentation will highlight some key processes that are underway to improve performance and productivity.

Chief Constable Sara Thornton QPM will attend for this item.

The Committee is invited to question the Chief Constable regarding the Plan.

7. Operation of Birmingham City Council's Illegal Money Lending Team in Oxfordshire (Pages 9 - 12) **11.45**

Richard Webb, Acting Head of Trading Standards & Community Safety, 01865 815791

On 30th November 2009 the Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Communities delegated authority to the Head of Community Safety and Trading Standards to enter into an agreement with Birmingham City Council that would allow the Illegal Money Lending Team operated by that authority to work in Oxfordshire. At this time it was requested that the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee receive periodic reports of the progress made by this team in identifying and tackling illegal money lending in Oxfordshire. This is the second progress report.

The formal agreement permitting the Illegal Money Lending Team to operate in Oxfordshire was signed in January 2010. On 29th January 2010 the Stop Loan Sharks project (the name given to the project work undertaken by the Illegal Money Lending Team) was launched at a partnership event in Barton. The agreement which enables the Birmingham City Council Team to operate in Oxfordshire expired at the end of March 2011 but should have been extended by the time this report is received. The work undertaken by the team since the project launch is detailed in this report.

8. Road Safety **12.00**

Colin Thomas, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, 01865 855206.

Verbal update on progress to date.

9. Fire Control **12.10**

Colin Thomas, Deputy Chief Fire Officer, 01865 855206.

Verbal update on current status.

10. Scrutiny Work Programme **12.20**

To consider work programme (to be sent separately).

11. Forward Plan **12.25**

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 items.

INFORMATION SHARE

Listed below are reports for information and links to background information that may be of interest to Members for noting only.

Subject Matter	Document

12.30 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.