



Notice of a Meeting

Performance Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 25 September 2014 at 10.00 am

Rooms 1&2 - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

Membership

Chairman Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE
Deputy Chairman - Councillor Neil Fawcett

<i>Councillors:</i>	Lynda Atkins	Yvonne Constance	Steve Harrod
	John Christie	Janet Godden	Simon Hoare
	Sam Coates	Mark Gray	Charles Mathew

Notes: ***Date of next meeting: 18 December 2014***

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

- The performance of the Council and to provide a focused review of:
 - Corporate performance and directorate performance and financial reporting
 - Budget scrutiny
- the performance of the Council by means of effective key performance indicators, review of key action plans and obligations and through direct access to service managers, Cabinet Members and partners;
- through call-in, the reconsideration of decisions made but not yet implemented by or on behalf of the Cabinet;
- queries or issues of concern that may occur over decisions being taken in relation to adult social care;
- the Council's scrutiny responsibilities under the Crime and Justice Act 2006.

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 Liz Brighthouse E.Mail: liz.brighthouse@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Policy & Performance Officer	-	Eira Hale, Lead Analyst, Tel: (01865) 323969 Email: eira.hale@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	-	<i>Sue Whitehead</i> , Tel: (01865) 810262 sue.whitehead@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Peter G. Clark
County Solicitor

September 2014

About the County Council

The Oxfordshire County Council is made up of 63 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 at end of agenda sheet**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the informal meeting held on 9 July 2014 (**PSC3**) and to receive information arising from them.

4. **Petitions and Public Address**
5. **Business Management Monitoring Report for the First Quarter 2014/15** (Pages 7 - 22)

1010

Head of Policy, Maggie Scott will present a paper outlining the Council's performance for the first quarter of 2014/15. The Performance Scrutiny Committee has invited selected Directors and Deputy Directors to answer questions about specific areas of concern in the performance report.

6. **Pressures and Demands in Children's Social Care** (Pages 23 - 28)

1125

Deputy Director for Children's Social Care & YOS, Lucy Butler, will present a paper to exploring the pressures and demands facing the service. The paper outlines the current levels of demand and caseloads, discusses the causes of the current level of demand and options to reduce this, and describes the impact of the increased demand, including what can be done to reduce the impact or mitigate the effects of the impact on service delivery.

7. **Highways Partnership Contract with Skanska** (Pages 29 - 44)

1145

Deputy Director – Commercial, Mark Kemp will report on the progress of the Highways Partnership Contract since the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme (HMEP) Review, identifying areas of good performance, areas for improvement and introducing a business plan, with associated action plan, to take forward some of the key conclusions of the review.

8. Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS) Performance Update
(Pages 45 - 142)

1205

Chief Fire Officer, Dave Etheridge, and Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Nathan Travis, will present their annual performance update. The update will include the OFRS Annual Report & Response Standards Report, Peer Challenge Report – Response and Action Plan and a presentation on the 365 Alive Outcomes and new targets.

9. OFRS Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) - Draft Action Plan 2015/16 (Pages 143 - 146)

1250

Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Nathan Travis, will present a report that proposes a number of projects to be included within the Fire Authority's Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP) draft action plan for the fiscal year 2015-16. The proposals summarise areas where the Service's Senior Leadership Team believe service improvements and/or greater value to the wider OCC corporate priorities may be achieved. To meet the requirements of the CRMP process, each proposal will be supported by evidence, validating both their inclusion and their contribution to improved community outcomes and community/firefighter safety. Similarly, each proposal recognises the prevailing economic constraints.

10. Governance & Constitution Review (Pages 147 - 170)

1305

In April 2013, the Council adopted new governance arrangements which came into effect following the May 2013 elections. The Council asked its Monitoring Officer to review the effectiveness of these decision-making arrangements a year after their coming into operation, along with the underlying Constitution. His recommendations will be considered by Full Council on 9 December. This report therefore summarises the emerging issues from the Monitoring Officer's review. This report will be presented by the Monitoring Officer, Head of Law & Governance, Peter Clark.

11. Forward Plan

1320

CLOSE OF MEETING - 1330

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 Glenn Watson on (01865) 815270 or glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.