

Notice of a Meeting

Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 10 May 2010 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:

A pre-meeting will be held at 9 am in committee room 2 for all members of the committee.

Date of next meeting: 5 July 2010

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) 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

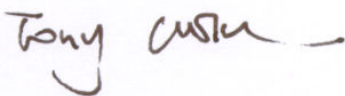
- Councillor Lawrie Stratford

E.Mail: lawrie.stratford@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Committee Officer

- Kath Coldwell, Tel: (01865) 815902

kath.coldwell@oxfordshire.gov.uk



Tony Cloke

Assistant Head of Legal & Democratic Services

April 2010

County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND

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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. **Election of Chairman for the Current Council Year**
2. **Election of Deputy Chairman for the Current Council Year**
3. **Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments**
4. **Declarations of Interest - see guidance note on the back page**
5. **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 12)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2010 (**SSC5**) and any matters arising on them.

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

SCRUTINY MATTERS

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

7. **Thames Valley Police Delivery Plan 2010/11: Presentation and Q&A** (Pages 13 - 28)

10:15

Published by Thames Valley Police Authority and Thames Valley Police, the Delivery Plan outlines the vision for the Force in the current year. The Delivery Plan 2010-2011 is attached (**SSC7**), and will be supported by the third year of the Strategic Plan 2008-2011 which is due to be published in June. The Delivery Plan outlines the seven strategic objectives, as well as the actions to be undertaken in the coming year to achieve these objectives, and the targets against which performance will be measured.

The presentation from the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police will cover the strategic plan, with a focus on delivery in 2010-11. All areas within the strategic plan will be covered, including 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, Chief Superintendent Brendan O'Dowda and Inspector Andy Talbot (Development and Change Manager) (Thames Valley Police) will attend for this item.

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

8. Fear of Crime in Oxfordshire (Pages 29 - 58)

12:00

Contact Officer: Richard Webb, Acting Head of Community Safety and Trading Standards, tel: (01865) 815791

The following people will present on fear of crime in this order:

- **Jo Cookes, Deputy Head of Community Safety (Government Office for the South East)** to give the public perception survey results broken down across the South East Region by District.
- **Bill Oddy, Head of Community Services (West Oxfordshire District Council) and Oxfordshire Lead on Public Confidence and Supt Amanda Pearson, Local Police Area Commander for Oxford City and TVP lead on Public Confidence** to present on the targets set for Oxfordshire in relation to National Indicator NI 21 (public perception that the police and local councils respond satisfactorily to local concerns around crime and disorder), the police “Confidence” indicator and the plans to deliver the targets.

A briefing on Public Confidence in Oxfordshire is attached (**SSC8**), which covers the work of the Oxfordshire Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP) during the past year. The paper also outlines the Safe & Confident Communities Project that will be implemented during the next six months.

Mr Oddy will take the Committee through the paper. Mr Bowden, the Oxfordshire Safe & Confident Communities Project Manager, will then give a short presentation on the Project.

- **Dan Bowden, Senior Performance Officer, Oxfordshire Basic Command Unit (Thames Valley Police)** to provide the detailed results for Oxfordshire (broken down by Districts) in terms of fear of crime and actual crime and to show how Oxfordshire compares with the rest of the Thames Valley.
- **Katie Pritchett, Corporate Consultation Officer (Oxfordshire County Council)** to present the outcomes of in-depth research exploring residents' views of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- **James Clark, Head of Communications, Marketing and Public Affairs (Oxfordshire County Council)** to present on what his team can do and is planning to do to help tackle fear of crime in Oxfordshire.

Richard Webb, Acting Head of Community Safety and Trading Standards (Oxfordshire County Council) and Ruth Whyte, Manager – Safer Communities Unit (Oxfordshire County Council) to answer any general/specific questions arising.

The Committee is invited to conduct a question and answer session in relation to this area.

2.30 – 3.00 SANDWICH LUNCH

9. Fire Service Command and Control Room - the FiReControl and FireLink Projects
(Pages 59 - 60)

3:00

Contact Officer: Colin Thomas, Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Head of Service Support, Tel: (01865) 855206

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer and Head of Service Support will provide an update and answer the Committee's questions.

Subject Matter	Document
Written update on progress of the Fire Service Command and Control Room (FiReControl and FireLink Projects)	SSC9

REVIEW WORK

To take evidence, receive progress updates and consider tracking reports.

10. Debt Advice Scrutiny Review - Progress Update

3:10

Contact Officers: Richard Webb, Acting Head of Community Safety and Trading Standards, Tel: (01865) 815791, Dr Imran Alvi, Assistant Corporate Performance and Review Manager, Tel: (01865) 810822

[Lead Member Review Group comprises Councillors Lawrie Stratford, Bill Service, John Goddard and John Sanders]

The Committee is invited to receive a progress update from the Lead Member Review Group.

SCRUTINY MATTERS

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

11. Plans for Banbury Library/Mill Arts Centre

3:20

Contact Officer: Richard Munro, Head of Community Services, Tel: (01865) 323579

To receive a verbal update on plans for Banbury Library and the Mill Arts Centre.

Mr Munro will be accompanied by Ms Caroline J. Taylor (County Librarian) and Mr Martyn Brown (County Heritage and Arts Officer).

The Committee is invited to receive the update and to conduct a question and answer session.

BUSINESS PLANNING

To consider future work items for the Committee

12. Scrutiny Work Programme (Pages 61 - 62)

3:40

Contact Officer: Dr Imran Alvi, Assistant Corporate Performance and Review Manager,
Tel: (01865) 810822

To update the attached timeline (**SSC12**).

13. Forward Plan

3:50

The Committee is asked note any items of interest on the current version of the Forward Plan which covers the time period May to August 2010.

14. Tracking Scrutiny Items

3:55

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.

- **Service and Resource Planning 2010/11 – 2014/15**

This Committee had agreed to advise the Cabinet via the Strategy & Partnerships Scrutiny Committee, that whilst recognising that difficult choices had to be made, it supported the proposals for savings as listed within the relevant Directorate Efficiency Strategies.

Councillor Mitchell's response is given below:

The Cabinet thanks the Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee for their support for budget savings which they have largely incorporated into the budget and

which has now been agreed by the Council.

- **Integrated Risk Management Action Plan**

This Committee had received a presentation and conducted a question and answer session in relation to proposal (a) of the Draft Fire Authority Integrated Risk Management Action Plan 2010/11 (Day Crewing Review at Abingdon and Didcot Fire Stations) and had agreed the following:

This Committee:

- recognises the detailed work that has already been carried out to prepare the proposal, with particular regard to the close working with staff and the Fire Brigades' Union;
- agrees that the proposal will provide a more robust means of delivering fire service cover across the whole of the county;
- fully supports the proposal and would welcome its implementation next year.

On 16 March the Cabinet agreed:

- (a) to approve all seven of the proposed projects for inclusion in the IRMP action plan 2010/11;
- (b) in light of the concerns expressed through the extensive internal and external consultation, to instruct the Chief Fire Officer to mitigate as far as practicable concerns raised when considering any future duty system;
- (c) in recognising the public concern around the potential impact of project one on attendance times to incidents during specific short periods, to instruct the Chief Fire Officer to report to the full Cabinet, the Cabinet Member for Safer and Stronger Communities and the related Scrutiny Committee on a four monthly basis in the first twelve months after implementation. This report to also include details of the beneficial elements to RDS stations from the staff redeployment of the four Watch Managers; and
- (d) to instruct the Chief Fire Officer to provide performance data relating to the implementation of project one to the South and Vale of White Horse District Councils and Abingdon and Didcot Town Councils.

INFORMATION SHARE

4:05

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

Subject Matter	Document
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The Director for Community Safety & Shared Services and Chief Fire Officer will give a verbal update on key issues including the item below	
Update on actions arising from the HSE Inspection of Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service (Q&A on Executive report and action plans to be held at the July meeting)	SSC14

15. 4.20 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.