

Notice of a Meeting

Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee

Monday, 6 September 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:

Date of next meeting: 8 November 2010

What does this Committee review or scrutinise?

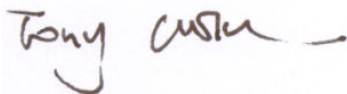
- Community safety; anti-social behaviour; crime and the fear of crime; fire and rescue; consumer protection; emergency planning; police issues; coroner's service; gypsies and travellers; drugs and alcohol awareness; road safety (police, trading standards, fire and rescue); adult learning (oversight 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	-	<i>Kath Coldwell, Tel: (01865) 815902</i> <i>kath.coldwell@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i>



Tony Cloke

Assistant Head of Legal & Democratic Services

August 2010

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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. 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 meeting held on 5 July 2010 (**SSC3**) and any matters arising on them.

- 4. Speaking to or petitioning the Committee**
- 5. Director's Update**

10:15

The Chief Fire Officer 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. Service and Resource Planning Presentation**

10:45

A presentation will be given to the Committee which will provide a high level overview of services provided and the challenges which will need to be addressed to meet the savings target. The Director for Social & Community Services and the Chief Fire Officer will cover their respective areas.

The Committee is invited to receive the presentation.

- 7. Fire Service Command and Control Room - the FiReControl and FireLink Projects (Pages 11 - 12)**

11:30

Contact Officer: Colin Thomas, Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer, (01865) 855206.

The Acting Deputy Chief Fire Officer 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)	SSC7

8. Paper on progress made in relation to increasing the County's resilience to Flooding (Pages 13 - 20)

11:50

Contact Officer: Bethan Morgan, County Emergency Planning Officer, (01865) 323760

A paper which provides detail on:

- progress by local resilience partners to increase resilience to flooding following the 2007 floods
- action taken to improve plans and processes to improve the local response to extreme weather incidents
- “Exercise Watermark” and the local activities planned to take place in relation to this national exercise

is attached (**SSC8**).

The County Emergency Planning Officer will attend for this agenda item in order to answer any questions which the Committee may wish to ask.

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

REVIEW WORK

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

9. Nominations to Scrutiny Review in relation to Youth Centres

12:10

Contact Officer: Roger Edwards, Scrutiny Review Officer (Health), tel (01865) 810824

The object of this review will be to ascertain whether the appropriate policies are in place to control admittance to youth centres, as well as to ensure that young people behave properly once inside. The review will consider recent incidents around alcohol usage and other poor behaviour which have tested current policies and ascertain whether those policies were effective.

Once the membership of the joint working group has been established, a more detailed scope for the review can be agreed at the group's first meeting.

The Committee is invited to nominate two members to join the Joint Working

Group.

BUSINESS PLANNING

To consider future work items for the Committee

10. Future Items for Possible Scrutiny Consideration (Pages 21 - 24)

12:15

A list of items already logged for future scrutiny consideration is attached at **SSC10**.

Members of this Committee are asked to consider any items that they may wish to have presentations about in future and any items that they may wish to include in future agendas.

(a) Tracking Scrutiny Items

12:25

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

• Self Help Communities

In July this Committee conducted a select committee investigation into community pride/self help and put forward a number of recommendations as part of the officer paper to the County Council Management Team (CCMT), which was considered on 28 July.

The CCMT decision is given below:

The county council continues to value the voluntary and community sector and recognises that there are challenging times ahead for all. It is particularly important that the council continues to support initiatives that encourage volunteering where possible within the financial constraints that emerge from the government's spending review in December. The Chief Executive and other members of CCMT are meeting representatives of the voluntary sector in September to discuss how we can continue to work together productively to support vulnerable people and communities.

This Committee will be invited to comment on the framework/strategy at its 8 November meeting and will conduct a question and answer session on progress in relation to this at its 14 February 2011 meeting.

(b) INFORMATION SHARE_(Pages 25 - 28)

12:35

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

Subject Matter	Document
Tackling Illegal Money Lending Progress Report	SSC11(b)

12. Forward Plan

12:50

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

13. 12:55 Approx Close of Meeting

Mrs Jacquie Bugeja, Head of Registration, will give a presentation on the Registration Service on the rise of this meeting.

The Committee is reminded that although the Service now sits under Legal & Democratic Services, it still falls within Councillor Heathcoat's portfolio and therefore falls under the remit of this Scrutiny Committee.

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.