



Notice of a Meeting

Performance Scrutiny Committee

Thursday, 10 January 2019 at 10.00 am

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

Membership

Chairman Councillor Liz Brighthouse OBE

Deputy Chairman - Councillor Jenny Hannaby

Councillors:

Nick Carter
Mike Fox-Davies
Tony Ilott

Liz Leffman
Charles Mathew
Glynis Phillips

Emily Smith
Michael Waine
Liam Walker

Notes: *A pre-meeting briefing will take place in the Members' Board Room at 9.30am on the day of the meeting.*

Date of next meeting: 14 March 2019

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	-	Katie Read, Senior Policy Officer 07584 909530 katie.read@oxfordshire.gov.uk
Committee Officer	-	Colm Ó Caomhánaigh, Tel 07393 001096 colm.ocaomhanaigh@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive

January 2019

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 678,000 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 - Guidance note on back page of the agenda**
3. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held 13 December 2018 and to receive information arising from them.

4. **Petitions and Public Address**

5. **Corporate Plan (To Follow)**

10.05

A report to provide context for a discussion about resources and budget pressures.

6. **Service and Resource Planning 2019/20 - 2028/29 (To Follow)**

10.35

To consider draft capital proposals and draft Treasury Management Strategy and provide comment to the Cabinet before proposals are reviewed on 22 January. Council will meet to agree the budget and MTFP on 12 February 2019.

7. **Highways Deep Dive Report (Pages 7 - 22)**

11.15

The condition of roads has a significant impact on levels public satisfaction with the Council and their local area. As a result, the Performance Scrutiny Committee commissioned a deep dive into the factors affecting public perception and experience of highways and the Council's approach to improving this. From July to November a small group of councillors worked with officers to identify opportunities for improving the condition of the road network, tackling congestion, better managing the impact of street works and adapting our approach to maintenance contracts and partnership working on highways. This report presents the findings and recommendations from the deep dive for the Performance Scrutiny Committee to consider.

The Performance Scrutiny Committee is RECOMMENDED to:

- a) **Ensure there is councillor input into the review of the Highways Asset Management Plan, and that this includes consideration of flexibility for local prioritisation.**
- b) **Ask Cabinet to ensure there is a smarter process for developing a programme of work to utilise the additional capital investment in highways and that a robust capital governance process is in place to help shape this and improve risk management.**
- c) **Ensure officers consider the impact on public perception when developing a programme of work and improve opportunities for councillors to**

influence this based on local priorities.

- d) **Ask officers to work with SKANSKA to explore a business case for greater levels of supervision that will ensure the quality of work remains high, including a consideration of how in-house resources could be utilised differently.**
- e) **Ensure that opportunities to utilise staff in flexible ways are explored further with SKANSKA, so that the maximum benefit of having staff on site can be realised.**
- f) **Encourage officers to explore more innovative maintenance methods and tools.**
- g) **Ask Cabinet to ensure an effective approach to publicly publishing and communicating the highways programme of work is in place.**
- h) **Ask officers to develop a more robust process for informing councillors of local road improvements in their division, so that they can advise on works that need to be prioritised and support early communication with residents.**
- i) **Ask officers to ensure all responses to highways enquiries / reports through Fix My Street include a named officer contact.**
- j) **Ensure direct points of contact are communicated and established for key stakeholders (e.g. town and parish councils) to ensure that local highway priorities can be followed up and dealt with more efficiently.**
- k) **Support the Council's ambition to become a Permitting Authority and request a report on the expected impact of this in mid-2019.**
- l) **Support the development of a comprehensive out of hours traffic management provision to ensure effective management of the impact of major incidents and network failures at these times.**
- m) **Support the principle of a having greater focus on enforcement.**
- n) **Ask the Cabinet to instruct officers to explore a case for employing dedicated resource for enforcement across all Highways services/functions.**
- o) **Ask the Director of Infrastructure Operations to ensure that a structured and robust approach to managing community engagement is in place.**
- p) **Ask officers to report back to Performance Scrutiny in 6-9 months on the impact of a refreshed approach to community engagement, including evidence of the effectiveness of the Fix My Street Superusers pilot project.**

8. Scrutiny of Partnerships (Pages 23 - 26)

11.35

This report sets out the way in which work with key partnerships in Oxfordshire has been presented to Councillors. It proposes that in future, scrutiny of each partnership will be undertaken throughout the year via specific, targeted discussions at appropriate meetings and reported on as part of the scrutiny annual report to Council in July.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:

- a) **note the revised approach to scrutiny of partnership arrangements moving forward; and**
- b) **agree which Partnerships they may wish to scrutinise in more detail as part of their forward plan.**

9. Committee Work Programme (Pages 27 - 30)

11.45

To agree the Committee's work programme for future meetings based on key priorities and discussion in the meeting.

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 **07776 997946** or glenn.watson@oxfordshire.gov.uk for a hard copy of the document.