

Agenda

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Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Wednesday 28 November 2012**

Time: **6.00 pm**

Place: **Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford**

For any further information please contact:

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Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee

Membership

Chair	Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan	Headington Hill and Northway;
Vice-Chair	Councillor Ben Lloyd-Shogbesan	Lye Valley;
	Councillor Jim Campbell	St. Margaret's;
	Councillor Bev Clack	St. Clement's;
	Councillor Roy Darke	Headington Hill and Northway;
	Councillor Mick Haines	Marston;
	Councillor Rae Humberstone	Blackbird Leys;
	Councillor Graham Jones	St. Clement's;
	Councillor Pat Kennedy	Lye Valley;
	Councillor Helen O'Hara	Cowley;
	Councillor Gill Sanders	Littlemore;
	Councillor Ruth Wilkinson	Headington;
	Councillor Dick Wolff	St. Mary's;

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AGENDA

Pages

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in any of the following agenda items. Guidance on this is set out at the end of these agenda pages.

3 STANDING ITEM: WORK PROGRAMME

1 - 26

Contact Officer: Pat Jones (Principal Scrutiny Officer), Tel 01865 252191, phjones@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
The work programme needs to reflect the wishes and interests of the Committee and so will be presented at every meeting to allow members to lead and shape their work.
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>To allow the Committee to be updated on progress since the last meeting and to agree any lines of enquiry needed for future meetings.</p> <p>The following additions have been made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Chair of the Committee has asked for 2 items from the Forward Plan to be included for pre-scrutiny. These are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economic Development and Growth Strategy refresh (formerly the Regeneration Strategy).• Community Infrastructure levy – draft charging schedule.These have been included for January 2013.2. The Housing Panel has agreed its work programme and appointed a Tenant Representative as a co-optee. <p>The latest Forward Plan is included for information.</p>
Who has been invited to comment?
Pat Jones, Principal Scrutiny Officer, will present the work programme and answer questions from the Committee.

What will happen after the meeting?

The programme will be update. The Chair and Vice Chair will continue to monitor the Committee's work programme and report to future meetings.

4 **STANDING ITEM:REPORT BACK ON THE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

27 - 32

Contact Officer: Lois Stock (Democratic Services Officer), Tel 01865 252275, lstock@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information

The Committee and its Panels make recommendations and comments to officers, Board Members and the City Executive Board. This item reports on the outcomes from these.

Why is it on the agenda?

To present to the committee the full text of reports approved by the Chair and other Lead Members of the committee and the results of the recommendations made. Reports have been or will be presented on:
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- The Homelessness Strategy Review (Housing Panel)

Who has been invited to comment?

Lois Stock, Democratic Services Officer, will go through outcomes and answer questions.

What will happen after the meeting?
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Any further follow up will be pursued within the work programme.
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5 **SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES AND THE HIGH STREET**

33 - 48

Contact Officer: Pat Jones (Principal Scrutiny Officer), Tel 01865 252191, phjones@oxford.gov.uk; Lois Stock (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer); Tel 01865 252275, lstock@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information

The health of local High Streets and shopping areas is important to

<p>the economic wellbeing and diversity of the City.</p> <p>National economic difficulties will have an effect on the survival of local businesses that make up local shopping areas, but does the City Council and its partners have a role to play in supporting and encouraging them?</p>
<p>Why is it on the agenda?</p> <p>The Committee agreed to debate what the City Council could do to support local High Streets /shopping areas within Oxford.</p> <p>Councillors Clack, Wilkinson and Wolff formed a Panel to scope the information required to support this initial debate.</p> <p>The main focus of the Panel has been the District centres of :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headington; • Summertown; • Blackbird Leys; • Cowley Road. <p>The Panel report attached outlines supporting information and raises a number of issues for debate. The Committee is asked to decide the next steps.</p>
<p>Who has been invited to comment?</p> <p>The Panel of Councillors will present their report to the Committee for discussion.</p>
<p>What will happen after the meeting?</p> <p>The next steps decided by the Committee will be reflected in the work programme.</p>

6 COMMUNITY CENTRES AND COMMUNITY COHESION

Contact Officer: Angela Cristofoli (Communities and Neighbourhoods Manager); 01865 252688, acristofoli@oxford.gov.uk

<p>Background Information</p> <p>Work is already underway in the Council to support and improve outcomes from community associations.</p> <p>The Committee decided that, as part of its work programme, it would consider how effectively community centres are run, in particular how they strive to engage and empower communities.</p>
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Why is it on the agenda?
<p>The Committee has asked to see information on actions being taken to improve:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management arrangements; • Governance; • Training • Contributions to community cohesion.
Who has been invited to comment?
<p>Angela Cristofoli (Communities and Neighbourhoods Manager) will attend the meeting.</p>
What will happen after the meeting?
<p>The committees programme will be updated to reflect any further inquiries the committee wish to make.</p> <p>Any recommendations will be presented to officers, the Board Member or the City Executive Board.</p>

7 AREA FORUMS - REVIEW OF THE FIRST YEAR.

57 - 70

Contact Officer: Pat Jones (Principal Scrutiny Officer), Tel 01865 252191, phjones@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
<p>In June 2011 the Committee set a Review Group to look at the development and operation of Area Forums in their first year of operation. Councillors Sanders and Wilkinson and the Scrutiny Officer spent a year observing their operation and development.</p> <p>The initial findings of the Review Group were reported to a Panel of this committee in April 2012 and it was suggested that further opinion should be taken before reporting.</p> <p>The then Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, Councillors Campbell and Sinclair, were asked to join the Review Group.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>The Review Group has taken additional opinions and views from the Chief Executive and the operational staff responsible for development.</p> <p>The Review Group's conclusions and recommendations are presented for the Committee to consider and decide how it wishes to</p>

progress.

It is highlighted that the findings section of this report is based on observations during 2011/2012

Who has been invited to comment?

The Review Group will present the findings to the Committee.

What will happen after the meeting?

If recommendations are agreed these will be presented to the City Executive Board.

8 MINUTES

71 - 76

Minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2012 attached.

9 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

These are the dates of future meetings, starting at 6pm:-

30th January 2012
4th April 2012.

DECLARING INTERESTS

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed “Declarations of Interest” or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council’s area; licences for land in the Council’s area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor’s Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council’s website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest.

If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members’ Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members’ Code of Conduct says that a member “must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself” and that “you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned”. What this means is that the matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

¹ Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those of the member’s spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

