

Agenda

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Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Wednesday 30 January 2013**

Time: **6.00 pm**

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

For any further information please contact:

Lois Stock, Democratic Services Officer

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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

The Quorum for this Committee is four Members and substitutes are allowed.

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 WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

1 - 24

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?
To allow the Committee to be updated on progress since the last meeting and to agree any lines of enquiry needed for future meetings. The latest Forward Plan is included for information.
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 REPORT BACK ON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

25 - 28

Contact Officer: Lois Stock (Democratic and Electoral 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 were made to CEB on 5 th December 2012.
Who has been invited to comment?
Lois Stock, Democratic Services Officer, will go through outcomes and answer questions.
What will happen after the meeting?
Any further follow up will be pursued within the work programme.

5 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - DRAFT CHARGING SCHEDULE

29 - 60

Contact Officer: Michael Crofton Briggs (Head of City Development), 01865 252360, mcrofton-briggs@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
<p>The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a new non negotiable levy on development that local authorities can choose to charge in their area to help fund infrastructure to support new development. It is calculated on £ per square metre of new floor space generated by most new development.</p> <p>A copy of the report that went to Council on 17th December 2012, and the minute arising from it, is attached.</p> <p>The issue is now out for consultation until the end of February 2013.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?
The Chair requested that this item be presented at Committee for

pre-scrutiny.
Who has been invited to comment?
Michael Crofton Briggs (Head of City Development) will attend the meeting to present the report and answer questions.
What will happen after the meeting?
Any comments made by Committee will be passed on as part of the consultation process.

6 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH STRATEGY REFRESH

61 - 166

Contact Officer: Sebastian Johnson (Strategic Policy and Partnership Manager), 01865 252137, srjohnson@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
<p>The Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP – a partnership of key public sector, universities, private sector and voluntary bodies in the City co-ordinated by the City Council) commissioned the development of a new Economic Growth Strategy in May 2012.</p> <p>The purpose of the new Strategy was to update and replace the economic development action plan that formed part of the Regeneration Framework that was adopted by the OSP and the City Council in 2009.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>This item was placed on the agenda by the Chair in order that it could be pre-scrutinised.</p> <p>The document is out for consultation at present. The consultation period ends at the February meeting of City Executive Board</p> <p>The Oxford Economic Growth Strategy (January 2013) and the Oxford Economic Narrative (July 2012) are attached. A summary note, that provides some context, is to follow.</p>
Who has been invited to comment?
<p>Sebastian Johnson (Strategic Policy and Partnership Manager) has been invited to the meeting to present the report and answer questions.</p>

What will happen after the meeting?

Any comments and any recommendations will be forwarded as part of the consultation process.

7 GREEN SPACES STRATEGY

167 - 226

Contact Officer: Ian Brooke (Head of Leisure and Parks), 01865 252705, ibrooke@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information

The draft Green Spaces Strategy was approved for public consultation by the City Executive Board on the 7th December 2011.

The strategy will contribute to the evidence base for applying the Community Infrastructure Levy (the new planning charge) and it shows our priorities to partners which will help with external funding bids.

The strategy focuses on the next four years, but runs to 2027 in recognition of the long term nature of green spaces and to also bring it in line with the Core Strategy of the Local Development Framework. The action plan will be reviewed and updated annually so that it remains relevant.

The Green Spaces Strategy is due to be considered for approval at City Executive Board on 13th February 2013.

Why is it on the agenda?

This item was placed on the agenda during the last meeting of the Committee in order that the strategy could be scrutinised prior to its presentation for final approval at CEB.

A copy of the strategy and its executive summary, is attached.

Who has been invited to comment?

Ian Brooke (Head of Leisure and Parks) has been invited to attend the meeting to present the report and answer questions.

What will happen after the meeting?

Any comments and recommendations made by the Committee will be passed on as part of the consultation process.

8 ENFRANCHISEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT - UPDATE ON PROGRESS

227 - 240

Contact Officers: Lois Stock (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer), 01865 252275, lstock@oxford.gov.uk; and Mathew Metcalfe (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer), 01865 252214, mmetcalfe@oxford.gov.uk

<p>Background Information</p> <p>The starting point for this is the Work Programme item:-</p> <p><i>The first report on the census is due shortly this will show the proportion of people who did not complete the form without at least 1 reminder. Alongside this there are a number of households with no one registered to vote.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Do we have a good understanding of the varied and complex reasons for this?</i><i>Do we understand the extent of the demographic deficit created by this?</i><i>What does it mean for services, funding and the understanding of our communities.</i><i>What effects does this have on community cohesion and engagement?</i> <p><i>What can we reasonably do to understand and improve the situation?</i></p> <p>Councillors Darke, Jones and O'Hara form the panel that has met to begin work on this subject.</p>
<p>Why is it on the agenda?</p> <p>The Panel has held its initial meeting and a report of its findings is attached for the Committee's information.</p> <p>The Committee is invited to express any views in order to assist the Panel in sharpening its focus.</p>
<p>Who has been invited to comment?</p> <p>Councillors Darke, Jones and O'Hara will introduce the item.</p> <p>Martin John (Principal Electoral Services Officer) will attend the meeting to answer any questions about enfranchisement.</p>
<p>What will happen after the meeting?</p> <p>The Panel will continue with its work in order to present a select committee debate on the item at the meeting on 4th April 2013.</p>

9 "HELPING THE HIGH STREET" - SUGGESTED FOCUS

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

Background Information
<p>At its meeting held on 28th November 2012, the Scrutiny Committee asked the Panel of three Councillors dealing with this issue (Councillors Clack, Wilkinson and Wolff) to return to the next meeting with the following information:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(1) The Panel should return to the next meeting with a proposal for the way forwards; focussing on 1 or 2 district centres and including some exploration of issues around small and independent shops;(2) Panel members will decide which and how many district centres to examine
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>Attached is a briefing note from the Panel that outlines its thinking to date.</p> <p>The Panel has decided to focus on 2 District Centres (Headington and Cowley Road) and has defined 4 themes upon which it wishes to focus. These are:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Local leadership and its role in promoting District Centres;2. Balance of shops;3. Accessibility;4. Council working together. <p>Further information is provided in the attached note.</p>
Who has been invited to comment?
<p>The Panel, Councillors Clack, Wolff and Wilkinson will give an update to the Committee and invites comments in order to help to sharpen its focus.</p>
What will happen after the meeting?
<p>The Panel will continue with its work, and intends to present its findings with recommendations as appropriate to a future meeting.</p>

10 COMMUNITY CENTRES

245 - 252

Contact Officer: John Bellenger (Building Design and Facilities Manager),
01865 252775, jbellenger@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
<p>At its last meeting, the Committee asked for further information on the maintenance of community centres.</p> <p>A briefing note from John Bellenger (Building Design and Facilities Manager) is attached.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>To update the Scrutiny Committee on the current position regarding maintenance backlog issues at community centres as identified through the recently carried out condition surveys and the resulting draft maintenance plan.</p>
Who has been invited to comment?
<p>The information is provided in order to keep the Committee up to date with progress in this matter.</p>
What will happen after the meeting?
<p>Should the Committee have any further questions, these can be pursued and the item can be considered for addition to the current or future work programme.</p>

11 MINUTES

253 - 260

Minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2012 attached.

12 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

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 (i.e. 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.

