

Agenda

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Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Thursday 4 April 2013**

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 on items contained in this agenda.

3 **WORK PROGRAMME END OF YEAR REPORT, AND FORWARD PLAN.**

1 - 34

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

Background Information
The Committee agreed a work programme to pursue during the year 2012-2013. Members have been updated on progress as the year has advanced, and this report represents the end of year position.
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>This report highlights:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The end of year position on the work programme;• The progress on all recommendations made;• Statistics and comparative data;• Issues that have arisen and new challenges. <p>The Committee is asked to consider the information presented and set a further informal meeting to discuss the issues in more details.</p> <p>Attached alongside the work programme is the latest version of the Forward plan to allow the Committee to express interest in any of the issues listed.</p>
Who has been invited to comment?
Pat Jones, Principal Scrutiny Officer, will present the report and the Chair will give his view on the year.
What will happen after the meeting?
An informal meeting will be set to discuss issues further. Any proposals or comments for the coming work programme will be presented for discussion by the Committee membership appointed in May.

4 ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY REFRESH - ACTION PLAN

35 - 58

Contact Officer: Michael Crofton Briggs (Head of City Development) 01865 252360, mcrofton-briggs@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 refreshed document was presented for pre-scrutiny by the Committee at its meeting on 30th January 2013.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>The Committee asked to see any Action Plan before it was presented to City Executive Board. The report will be presented at CEB on 10th April 2013.</p> <p>A draft Action Plan for the City Council is attached as requested.</p>
Who has been invited to comment?
<p>Michael Crofton Briggs has been invited to the meeting to present the plan and answer questions.</p>
What will happen after the meeting?
<p>Any recommendations will be passed to the relevant Board Member and/or CEB for comment.</p>

5 LOCAL CELEBRATORY EVENTS

59 - 64

Contact Officer: Ceri Gorton (Cultural Development Manager) 01865 252829, cgorton@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
<p>A number of celebratory events are held in Oxford each year, including the Cowley Road Carnival and the Barton Bash. These events play an important role in community cohesion and add to the vibrancy and diversity of the City.</p> <p>The Council uses some of these events in its promotional work and examples of partnership working with local communities. Over the years, the Council's role has changed, particularly in relation to the staging and funding of events.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?

The Committee decided to hold a select committee enquiry at which the following aspects of the Council's role would be considered:-

- The importance the Council places on these events within the cultural calendar;
- Do officers and the Board Member believe we have the correct relationships and support mechanisms to sustain these events for the future (the committee have noted the use of events such as these in Council literature to exemplify Oxford as a vibrant and exciting place)?
- What role does the Council have in sustaining events such as these, and growing new community based activities for the future (they have noted the change in role over the last years and want to understand why the change and what have been the effects of this)?
- What support is given to communities and groups organising this type of event?
- How much money and resources do we put into this type of activity and how has this changed over the last few years?

Who has been invited to comment?

Ceri Gorton (Cultural Development Manager) and Peter McQuitty (Head of Policy, Culture and Communications) have been invited to the meeting.

What will happen after the meeting?

Any recommendations will be passed to the relevant Board Member and/or CEB for comment.

6 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENTS PANEL - UPDATE

65 - 68

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

Background Information

The Committee agreed to establish a Panel to work with, and scrutinise, the focus and outcomes from the City Council's investment in primary education. This Panel consists of Councillors Clack, Campbell, Jones, Kennedy and Khan.

The Panel has established an active partnership with a school, and has visited it.

Why is it on the agenda?

The attached report is presented to update the Committee on work and progress so far.

Who has been invited to comment?
Councillors Campbell, Clack, Kennedy, Khan and Jones (Panel Members) and Pat Jones (Principal Scrutiny Officer) will present their update to the Committee.
What will happen after the meeting?
The Committee is asked to recommend continuation of the Panel's work into the next Scrutiny work programme.

7 HELPING THE HIGH STREET - PANEL UPDATE

69 - 72

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

Background Information
<p>The Panel has now agreed to focus upon Headington and Cowley Road District Centres.</p> <p>Their first step will be to talk to traders' groups within these areas about their view of the health and vitality of their local shopping area. The Panel has drawn up a brief questionnaire for traders in both areas, which is explained in the attached report.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?
To provide a brief update for the Committee concerning the current status of the Panel.
Who has been invited to comment?
The Panel, Councillors Clack, Wolff and Wilkinson will give an update to the Committee and invite comments.
What will happen after the meeting?
The Panel seeks to continue its work, and will report back to the Committee.

8 ENFRANCHISEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT - PANEL UPDATE

73 - 76

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

Background Information
<p>At its last meeting, the Committee noted the work of the Panel so far, and agreed that the next step was to focus on empowerment; using data to select a few communities in order to discuss with them their views of empowerment.</p> <p>The Panel has held a further meeting at which Martin Tudge (Communities and Neighbourhoods) was able to assist the Panel to narrow down the issues and decide which communities to focus upon.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>The item is presented here to give the Committee a update on progress to date.</p> <p>Martin Tudge has kindly offered to arrange some informal focus group meetings with representatives from the Pakistani, Somali and Polish communities, starting in April.</p>
Who has been invited to comment?
<p>The Panel, Councillors Jones, Darke and O'Hara will present the item to the Committee.</p>
What will happen after the meeting?
<p>The Panel will continue its work, will attend the planned focus group meetings and will report back to a future meeting.</p>

9 MINUTES

77 - 86

Minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2013 are attached.

10 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To be confirmed at the start of the new Council Year

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.

