

Agenda

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Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

Date: **Tuesday 3 September 2013**

Time: **6.00 pm**

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

For any further information please contact:

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If you would like help to understand this document please call Pat Jones, Principal scrutiny Officer in advance of the meeting.

Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

Membership

Chair

Councillor Val Smith

Councillor Gill Sanders

Linda Hill

Co-optee

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AGENDA

PART ONE PUBLIC BUSINESS

Pages

1 PANEL SCOPE AND WORK PROGRAMME

1 - 4

Officer: Pat Jones, Principal Scrutiny Officer
Tele: 01865252191
Email: phjones@oxford.gov.uk

This item outlines the scope set for the Panel by the Scrutiny Committee and presents the outline work programme for discussion and agreement.

2 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

5 - 6

Officer: Pat Jones, Principal Scrutiny Officer
Tele: 01865252191
Email: phjones@oxford.gov.uk

The Scrutiny Committee agreed a small panel of members to review all currently reported performance measures and decide 2 sets for reporting to the Scrutiny Committee and the Housing Standing Panel. The direction given to the panel of members was to choose measures for consideration that linked to Scrutiny's lines of inquiry and areas of interest.

The set reported here are those selected for the Housing Panel and cover the 3 areas selected as priorities for Panel consideration:

- Welfare Reform and the Housing Crisis.
- Housing Supply.
- Estate Regeneration.

Performance is reported at the 1st. Quarter and the Panel is asked to:

- Review the set for completeness
- Make any comments on performance to the City Executive Board on the 11th. September via the Scrutiny Committee on the 5th. September.

3 ALLOCATION SCHEME REVIEW

7 - 120

Officer: Dave Scholes, Housing Strategy and Needs Manager
Tele: 01865 252626
Email: dscholes@oxford.gov.uk

The Panel have asked to pre-scrutinise this proposed decision.

The Board Member will attend.

This report presents the results of the review of the Allocations Scheme and proposals for a new Allocations Scheme.

This scheme will be considered by the City Executive Board (CEB) on the 11th. September and agreed at Council on the 30th. September. Any recommendations from the Panel will go to CEB and Council via the Scrutiny Committee on the 5th. September.

In response to the Panel's line of inquiry a briefing note is included in the next agenda item outlining how the Council communicates, gives advice and takes feedback on allocation policies and practices.

4 ALLOCATIONS POLICIES - HOW THE COUNCIL COMMUNICATES

121 - 124

Officer: Dave Scholes, Housing Strategy and Needs Manager

Tele: 01865 252626

Email: dscholes@oxford.gov.uk

The Scrutiny Committee has asked the Housing Panel to consider how Housing Services communicates, gives advice and takes feedback on its schemes and policies for allocating housing.

The briefing note attached provides information to start that debate. The Panel is asked to consider this information and the proposals for changes to the Allocations Scheme and decide how it wishes to pursue this issue further.

5 LONG TERM AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

125 - 146

Officer: Dave Scholes, Housing Strategy and Needs Manager

Tele: 01865 252626

Email: dscholes@oxford.gov.uk

The Panel have asked to pre-scrutinise this proposed decision.

The Board Member will attend.

This report outlines proposals for arrangements to procure properties for use in preventing homelessness. The City Executive Board will consider this on the 11th. September and any recommendations from the Panel will go to that meeting via the Scrutiny Committee on the 5th. September.

6 REVIEW OF THE HOUSING STRATEGY ACTION PLAN - 2012-2016

147 - 172

Officer: Dave Scholes, Housing Strategy and Needs Manager

Tele: 01865 252626

Email: dscholes@oxford.gov.uk

The Panel have asked to pre-scrutinise this proposed decision.

The Board Member will attend.

The Council agreed a Housing Strategy for the period 2012 to 2016. The Strategy includes a yearly review of the Action Plan that supports delivery of its objectives. This report outlines that review for the coming year and will be considered by the City Executive Board on the 11th. September. Any recommendations from the Panel will go to that meeting via the Scrutiny Committee on the 5th. September.

The Panel should note that a refresh of the Housing Strategy overall is underway and it is planned to report outcomes to the City Executive Board in December and then on to Council in February 2014 for agreement.

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.

*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.