

# Agenda

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## Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

Date: **Wednesday 15 January 2014**

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Time: **5.00 pm**

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

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For any further information please contact:

**Pat Jones, Principal Scrutiny Officer**

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# Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

## Membership

**Chair**                      **Councillor Val Smith**

### **Vice Chair**

**Councillor Gill Sanders**

**Councillor Stuart McCready**

**Councillor Sam Hollick**

**Linda Hill**

Co-optee

The quorum for this Committee is 3, substitutes are permitted.

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# AGENDA

## Pages

### 1 APOLOGIES

The quorum for this Panel meeting is three and substitutes are allowed.

### 2 WORK PROGRAMME AND REPORT BACK ON RECOMMENDATIONS

1 - 2

Officer: Pat Jones Principal Scrutiny Officer will support the Panel with this debate.

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This item presents for discussion by The Panel the forward work programme and the results of recommendations made.

In particular:

- (1) That the Temporary Accommodations Management Arrangements issue which the Panel had requested to see before its implementation, would now be considered at the March 2014 meeting of the Panel.
- (2) That the outcome of the interviews with tenants who had been through the mutual exchange process would now be considered at the February 2014 meeting of the Panel.
- (3) That the City Executive Board at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013, agreed with the recommendation from the Panel to ask that the new Landlord and Lettings Agencies Accreditation Scheme be publicised as widely as possible to achieve greatest impact so that the number of landlords in the Scheme be maximised, as part of the Housing Action Plan refresh.

### 3 RENT ARREARS ANALYSIS AND PROFILES

Officer: Helen Bishop Head of Customer Services will support the Panel with this debate.

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At a previous Panel meeting, Panel members asked to see more details on Council Tenant rent arrears.

Further information was requested on the profile of the rent arrears figures. In

particular:

- The number of tenants in arrears who are affected by any of the benefit changes, or
- are in the direct payments pilot.
- Alongside this the profile of the debt by number of weeks in arrears.

**THIS REPORT WAS NOT AVAILABLE WHEN THE AGENDA WAS PRINTED AND WILL BE CIRCULATED SEPERATELY PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

#### **4 NO SECOND NIGHT OUT - DETAILED PERFORMANCE INFORMATION**

3 - 6

Officer: Stephen Clarke, Head of Housing and Property  
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The Panel at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013 discussed rough sleepers and asked for a further briefing on the numbers of people helped by the policy, a breakdown of figures showing the trends for new and entrenched rough sleepers, their profiles and the wait times for a hostel place.

#### **5 IMPROVING QUALITY IN THE PRIVATE RENT SECTOR - A CITY COUNCIL LETTING AGENCY**

7 - 10

Officer: David Edwards, Executive Director, City Regeneration  
Telephone: 01865 252394  
Email: [dedwards@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:dedwards@oxford.gov.uk)

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At the Panel meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013, the Panel while aware of the Councils focus on improving quality in the private rented sector through the extended licensing scheme, wanted to explore the possibilities of the City Council setting a letting agency. The Panel asked for further information detailing the benefits and risks of such an approach.

#### **6 SATISFACTION WITH PARKS - DETAILS OF SURVEY RESULTS**

11 - 48

Officer: Ian Brooke, Head of Leisure and Parks  
Telephone: 01865 252705  
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The Panel considers a set of performance indicators every quarter which includes LP013 regarding increasing satisfaction with parks. To further understand the downward trend of performance highlighted at its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013, the Panel asked for further information on the survey including the methodology used, the numbers and locations of respondents,

the questions asked and reasons for any dissatisfaction.

**7 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

49 - 52

Notes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013

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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; licenses 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.

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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.

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