

Agenda

www.oxford.gov.uk



Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

Date: **Friday 7 February 2014**

Time: **5.00 pm**

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

For any further information please contact:

Pat Jones, Principal Scrutiny Officer

Telephone: 01865 252191

Email: phjones@oxford.gov.uk

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.

HOW TO OBTAIN AGENDA

In order to reduce the use of resources, our carbon footprint and our costs we will no longer produce paper copies of agenda over and above our minimum internal and Council member requirement. Paper copies may be looked at the Town Hall Reception and at Customer Services, St Aldate's and at the Westgate Library

A copy of the agenda may be:-

- Viewed on our website – mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk
- Downloaded from our website
- Subscribed to electronically by registering online at mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk
- Sent to you in hard copy form upon payment of an annual subscription.

AGENDA

Pages

1 APOLOGIES

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

2 WORK PROGRAMME AND REPORT BACK ON RECOMMENDATIONS

1 - 4

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

Telephone: 01865 252191

Email: phjones@oxford.gov.uk

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

In particular:

- (1) Oxfordshire County Council – Supporting People budget issues - update on the latest position from the Oxfordshire County Council budget setting for Supporting People and the effects of this on homelessness provision in Oxford city.
- (2) Responses from Board Members and Officers on Improving quality in the private rent sector – A City Council Letting Agency, and Satisfaction with Parks – Details of the Survey Results (report attached).

3 STAR TENANTS' SURVEY - VALIDATED RESULTS

Officer: Stephen Clarke, Head of Housing and Property

Tel: 01865 252447

Email: sclarke@oxford.gov.uk

At its meeting on 5th December 2013, the Panel considered a number of performance indicator results obtained via the STAR Survey. The Panel agreed to revisit the results when the validation process had been completed to consider how the results would be used to improve the officer to tenants in Oxford, along with a demographic breakdown of the results.

The report was not available when the main agenda was printed and will be circulated prior to the meeting.

4 OUTCOME FROM THE REVIEW OF THE MUTUAL EXCHANGE PROCESS

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

Telephone: 01865 252191

Email: phjones@oxford.gov.uk

The Panel at its meeting on 18th March 2013, heard about the current process of mutual exchanges and the amount of under occupation of Council properties. It agreed to work with Officers to gain a better understanding of the process and what further work was planned, by interviewing tenants at the beginning and end of the process.

The Panel will hear the findings from these interviews.

5 PERFORMANCE MONITORING - HOUSING MEASURES - QUARTER 3

5 - 8

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

Telephone: 01865 252191

Email: phjones@oxford.gov.uk

This item reports outcomes at quarter 3 for the set of performance indicators chosen by the Panel. They are grouped according to the themes chosen by the Panel:

- Welfare reform and the housing crisis.
- Housing supply.
- Estate regeneration.

6 ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY - OXFORD STANDARD

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

Telephone: 01865 252191

Email: phjones@oxford.gov.uk

The Panel at its meeting on 3rd September 2013 noted that a stock condition survey was underway which would inform an asset management plan for the stock, and would be a vehicle to decide, agree and plan for an "Oxford Standard" for our properties. The Panel wished to be part of the development of this plan, in partnership with the Tenants Scrutiny Panel.

The Panel will receive a verbal update on the latest position.

7 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

9 - 12

Notes of the meeting held on 15th January 2014.

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; 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.

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 member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.