

# Agenda

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## Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

Date: **Wednesday 9 March 2016**

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Time: **5.00 pm**

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Place: **Plowman Room - Town Hall**

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For any further information please contact:

**Andrew Brown - Scrutiny Officer**

Telephone: 01865 252230

Email: [abrown2@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:abrown2@oxford.gov.uk)

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As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record the meeting please let the Contact Officer know how you wish to do this before the start of the meeting.

# Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

## Membership

<b>Chair</b>	Councillor Linda Smith
	Councillor Gill Sanders
	Councillor Elizabeth Wade
	Councillor Elise Benjamin
	Councillor David Henwood
	Geno Humphrey (Housing Panel co-optee)

Substitutes are not permitted.

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# AGENDA

Pages

**1 APOLOGIES (5.00 PM)**

Substitutes are not allowed.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (5.01 PM)**

**3 HOUSING PERFORMANCE - JANUARY 2016 (5.02 PM)**

Contact Officer: Andrew Brown, Scrutiny Officer Tel: 01865 252230  
abrown2@oxford.gov.uk

9 - 10

Background information
This report contains outcomes at the end of January 2016 for a set of housing performance indicators selected by the Panel.
Why is it on the agenda?
The Housing Panel has a role in monitoring Council performance against housing targets. The Panel may wish to ask questions or request additional information.
Who has been invited to comment?
Stephen Clarke, Head of Housing and Property

**4 DE-DESIGNATION OF 40+ ACCOMMODATION - YEAR 5 REPORT (5.10 PM)**

Contact Officer: Tom Porter, Allocations Manager Tel: 01865 252713  
tporter@oxford.gov.uk

Background information
In 2009, the Communities & Partnership Scrutiny Committee set up a Panel to consider the number and type of properties that were designated to only be let to persons over 40 years of age. This review sought to address a mismatch between the low amount of one bedroom council accommodation available to those under 40, and the large number of such households in housing need.
The City Executive Board on 12/1/11 approved the phased implementation of the de-designation of most of the Council's designated 40+ properties over a 5 year period; this began on 1/4/11. The Panel has received annual updates, most recently on 29 April 2014.

Why is it on the agenda?
To provide a year 5 update to the Panel on the de-designation of 40+ accommodations.  <b>Report to follow.</b>
Who has been invited to comment?
Tom Porter, Allocations Manager.

**5 GREAT ESTATES PROGRAMME UPDATE (5.20 PM)**

11 - 16

Contact Officer: Martin Shaw, Property Services Manager Tel: 01865 252775 mshaw2@oxford.gov.uk

Background information
The Panel has requested an update on the Council's 'great estates' capital investments including the tower block refurbishment project.
Why is it on the agenda?
To update the Panel on the Council's great estates programme. The Property Services Manager will provide a presentation to the Panel. A separate report has been provided to update the Panel on the tower block project (see item 6).
Who has been invited to comment?
Martin Shaw, Property Services Manager

**6 TOWER PROJECT UPDATE (5.40 PM)**

17 - 20

Contact Officer: Jack Bradley, Senior Building Surveyor Tel: 01865 252440 jbradley@oxford.gov.uk

Background information
The Panel has requested an update on the tower block refurbishment project.
Why is it on the agenda?
To update the Panel on the tower project.
Who has been invited to comment?
Stephen Clarke, Head of Housing and Property Martin Shaw, Property Services Manager

**7 SECURITY IN TOWER BLOCKS (5.55 PM)**

21 - 34

Contact Officer: Daryl Edmunds, Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation Team  
Manager Tel: 01865 252 723 dedmunds@oxford.gov.uk

Background information
<p>The Panel requested a report on security issues in tower blocks including the different approaches being taken to address anti-social behaviour and other issues.</p> <p>The Chair has also written to block representatives to canvas their views in the form of a brief survey, which is also included.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>To update the Panel on security issues in tower blocks and different approaches being taken to address these.</p>
Who has been invited to comment?
<p>Daryl Edmunds, Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation Team Manager</p>

**8 ALLOCATION OF HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION FUNDS (6.15 PM)**

35 - 46

Contact Officer: Nerys Parry, Rough Sleeping and Single Homelessness  
Manager nparry@oxford.gov.uk

Background information
<p>The Housing Panel asked for the Allocation of Homelessness Prevention Funds to be included on the agenda for pre-decision scrutiny.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>The City Executive Board will be asked to approve the Allocation of Homelessness Prevention Funds at its meeting on 17 March 2016. This is an opportunity for the Housing Panel to make recommendations to the City Executive Board.</p>
Who has been invited to comment?
<p>Nerys Parry, Rough Sleeping and Single Homelessness Manager</p>

**9 A HOUSING COMPANY FOR OXFORD (6.30 PM)**

47 - 64

Contact Officer: Alan Wylde, Housing Development & Enabling Manager Tel: 01865 252319 awylde@oxford.gov.uk

Background
<p>The Housing Panel asked for A Housing Company for Oxford to be included on the agenda for pre-decision scrutiny.</p> <p>As the Finance Panel also has an interest in this decision, Finance Panel members have been invited to join the Housing Panel for pre-decision scrutiny.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>The City Executive Board will be asked to approve the recommendations set out in the report at its meeting on 17 March 2016. This is an opportunity for the Housing Panel to make recommendations to the City Executive Board.</p>
Who has been invited to comment?
<p>Stephen Clarke – Head of Housing and Property  Jeremy Thomas – Head of Law and Governance  Alan Wylde – Housing Development &amp; Enabling Manager  Anna Winship – Management Accountancy Manager  David Watt – Finance Business Partner</p>

**10 HOUSING PANEL WORK PROGRAMME**

65 - 66

For the Panel to note and agree its work programme.

The Scrutiny Officer will introduce the work programme and advise the Panel of any suggested changes.

**11 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

67 - 70

For the Panel to agree and note the record of the meeting held on 1 February 2016.

**12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

- 11 April 2016 – tenant involvement
- 7 July 2016
- 5 October 2016
- 9 November 2016
- 1 March 2017
- 3 May 2017

All meetings begin at 5.00pm

## **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.