

Agenda

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Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

Date: **Thursday 7 July 2016**

Time: **5.00 pm**

Place: **Plowman Room - Town Hall**

For any further information please contact:

Andrew Brown

Telephone: 01865 252230

Email: abrown2@oxford.gov.uk

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

Councillor Angie Goff
Councillor David Henwood
Councillor Jennifer Pegg
Councillor Gill Sanders
Councillor David Thomas
Councillor Elizabeth Wade
Geno Humphrey (Housing Panel co-optee)

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AGENDA

Pages

1 APOLOGIES

Substitutes are not allowed.

2 ELECTION OF HOUSING PANEL CHAIR

The Panel is asked to elect a Chair for the Council year 2016/17.

The Chair must be a member of the Scrutiny Committee and can be from any political group.

If the Panel is unable to elect a Chair for the year (i.e. in the event of a tied vote), this decision will be referred to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee.

3 APPOINTMENT OF A TENANT AS A CO-OPTED MEMBER OF THE HOUSING PANEL

The Housing Panel, when originally set by the Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee, was asked to recruit an Oxford City Council tenant to sit as a non-voting co-opted member.

Last summer the Panel agreed to appoint a new co-opted member for the 2015/16 Council year and sought expressions of interest via the Council's Tenant Involvement Team and the Tenants in Touch newsletter. Following an informal interview process the Panel appointed Geno Humphrey as a co-opted member for one year.

Recommendation: That the Panel AGREES to re-appoint Geno Humphrey as a co-opted member for the Council year 2016/17.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

5 HOUSING PERFORMANCE - 2015/16 QUARTER 4

9 - 12

Background information
The Housing Panel has a role in monitoring Council performance against housing targets. This report contains outcomes at the end of the 2015-16 Council year (31 March 2016) for a set of housing indicators.
Why is it on the agenda?
For the Panel to note and comment on housing performance at the end of the 2015-16 Council year.
Who has been invited to comment?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Mike Rowley, Board Member for Housing;• Stephen Clarke, Head of Housing and Property.

6 TENANT SATISFACTION

13 - 156

Background information
The Housing Panel has requested an annual briefing on tenant satisfaction results. Last year the Panel recommended that after the 2015 STAR (Survey of Tenants and Residents) survey results the Council should review the methodology used and aim to make more personal contact with tenants.
Why is it on the agenda?
For the Panel to note and comment on the 2015 STAR survey results.
Who has been invited to comment?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Mike Rowley, Board Member for Housing;• Bill Graves, Landlord Services Manager.

7 PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING POLICY

157 - 258

Background information
The Housing Panel pre-scrutinised the Private Sector Housing Policy at the pre-consultation stage and made five recommendations to the City Executive Board. The Panel agreed to pre-scrutinise the Policy again following the public consultation.
Why is it on the agenda?
The Panel asked for this item to be included on the agenda for pre-decision scrutiny. This is an opportunity for the Panel to make recommendations to the City Executive Board.
Who has been invited to comment?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Bob Price, Board Member for Corporate Strategy & Economic Development;• Ian Wright, Environmental Health Service Manager;• Michael Browning, Private Sector Safety Team Leader.

8 REVIEW OF LORD MAYOR'S DEPOSIT GUARANTEE SCHEME

259 - 266

Background information
The Lord Mayor's Deposit Guarantee Scheme was started in 1993 and was last reviewed in 2008. The scheme aims to help local people who are in need of housing and on a low income afford and sustain a move into the private rented sector. The City Executive Board on 14 July 2016 will be asked to:

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree the enhanced one year pilot offer to landlords, as set out in this report, to help increase the number of low income non-statutory homeless households to find property in the private rented sector 2. Delegate any further minor changes to the scheme to the Head of Housing and Property, including whether to adopt the approach piloted in future, following an evaluation of the pilot.
Why is it on the agenda?
The Scrutiny Committee asked for this item to be included on the Housing Panel agenda for pre-decision scrutiny. This is an opportunity for the Panel to make recommendations to the City Executive Board.
Who has been invited to comment?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Mike Rowley, Board Member for Housing; • Dave Scholes, Housing Strategy & Needs Manager; • David Rundle, Private Rented Sector Team Leader.

9 HOUSING PANEL WORK PLAN

267 - 278

For the Panel to note and agree its work plan, which can be adjusted to reflect the wishes of the Panel.

The scrutiny work plan includes a number of items for Housing Panel meetings that have been referred to the Panel by the Scrutiny Committee for consideration during the year.

10 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

279 - 282

For the Panel to note the record of the meeting held on 11 April 2016.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

- 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.

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