

Agenda

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Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

Date: **Wednesday 26 April 2017**

Time: **5.00 pm**

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

For any further information please contact:

Andrew Brown, Scrutiny Officer

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

Chair

Councillor David Henwood

Councillor Angie Goff

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 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 EMPTY PROPERTIES

7 - 14

Contact Officer: Frances Evans, Strategy & Service Development Manager
Tel: 01865 252062; fevans@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
The Panel requested a report on Council approaches to dealing with empty properties ahead of a refresh of the Empty Property Strategy.
Why is it on the agenda?
For the Panel to note and comment on the empty dwellings briefing.
Who has been invited to comment?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Mike Rowley, Board Member for Housing;• Frances Evans, Strategy & Service Development Manager;• Melanie Mutch, Empty Property Officer.

4 GREAT ESTATES UPDATE

15 - 26

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

Background Information
The Panel received a presentation on the Council's Great Estates Programme in March 2016 and requested a report back on progress after 12 months.
Why is it on the agenda?
For the Panel to note and comment on progress of the Great Estates Programme.
Who has been invited to comment?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Mike Rowley, Board Member for Housing;• Martin Shaw, Property Services Manager.

5 EMPTY GARAGES AND FORMER GARAGE SITES

27 - 36

Contact Officer: Bill Graves, Landlord Services Manager Tel: 01865 252428
bgraves@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
The Panel requested a report on plans and activities relating to the Council's garage assets.
Why is it on the agenda?
For the Panel to note and comment on activities being carried out under the Garage Asset Management Strategy.
Who has been invited to comment?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr Mike Rowley, Board Member for Housing;• Bill Graves, Landlord Services Manager.

6 TOWER BLOCK REFURBISHMENT

The Panel has asked to be kept informed about progress of the Tenant Scrutiny Panel (TSP) review of the Council's tower block refurbishment programme.

The TSP's report and senior officer response will be presented at the next Housing Panel meeting. In the meantime the Chair of the TSP may wish to provide a verbal update.

7 HOUSING PANEL WORK PROGRAMME

This is the final Housing Panel meeting of the Council year. The Panel are asked to contribute ideas for the 2017/18 scrutiny work plan.

8 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

For the Panel to agree and note the record of the meeting held on 1 March 2017.

37 - 38

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Meetings for the 2017/18 Council year are provisionally scheduled as follows:

14 June 2017
12 October 2017
13 November 2017
8 March 2018
9 April 2018

All meetings begin at 5.00pm.

MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

If the Panel wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the exempt from publication part of the agenda, it will be necessary for the Committee to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Schedule I2A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Panel may maintain the exemption if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

10 EXEMPT APPENDICES - GARAGE ASSET MANAGEMENT

39 - 66

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.