

Agenda

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Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Monday 26 March 2012**

Time: **6.00 pm**

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

For any further information please contact:

Alec Dubberley, Democratic Services Officer

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Email: adubberley@oxford.gov.uk

Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee

Membership

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| Chair | Councillor Stephen Brown | Carfax; |
| Vice-Chair | Councillor Scott Seamons | Northfield Brook; |
| | Councillor Mohammed Abbasi | Cowley Marsh; |
| | Councillor Michael Gotch | Wolvercote; |
| | Councillor Rae Humberstone | Blackbird Leys; |
| | Councillor Bryan Keen | Cowley; |
| | Councillor Sajjad Malik | Cowley Marsh; |
| | Councillor Stuart McCready | Summertown; |
| | Councillor Mike Rowley | Barton and Sandhills; |
| | Councillor Gwynneth Royce | St. Margaret's; |
| | Councillor Oscar Van Nooijen | Hinksey Park; |
| | Councillor David Williams | Iffley Fields; |

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AGENDA

Pages

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND AND SUBSTITUTIONS

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 STANDING ITEM: WORK PROGRAMME

1 - 12

Pat Jones, Principal Scrutiny Officer, Tel: (01865) 252191,
Email phjones@oxford.gov.uk;
Alec Dubberley, Democratic Services Officer, Tel: (01865) 252402,
Email: adubberley@oxford.gov.uk

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| Background information |
| The work programme needs to reflect the wishes and interests of the Committee. It is presented here and at every meeting to allow members to lead and shape their work. |
| Why is the item on the agenda? |
| To agree the lines of inquiry for forthcoming meetings and to take an overview of progress |
| Who has been invited to comment? |
| The Principal Scrutiny Officer, will present the work programme and answer questions from the Committee. |
| What will happen after the meeting? |
| The Chair and Vice-Chair will continue to monitor the Committee's work programme and report to future meetings. |

4 BENEFITS FUNDAMENTAL SERVICE REVIEW

13 - 24

Neil Lawrence Performance Improvement Manager,
Email: nlawrence@oxford.gov.uk, Tel: 01865 252542

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| Background information |
| The Benefits Fundamental Service Review has been on the Committee's work programme for a long period. This report will conclude this particular strand of work. |
| Why is the item on the agenda? |

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| This report details the outcomes from the benefits fundamental service review matched against the original lines of inquiry set by the scrutiny committee |
| Who has been invited to comment? |
| The Performance Improvement Manager and the Board Member will be invited to the Committee. |
| What will happen after the meeting? |
| This will be up to the Committee and any Scrutiny Committees formed after the May elections. |

5 EQUALITIES

To Follow

The report will be sent out on Monday.

Lead Officer: Jarlath Brine, Equalities & Diversity Business Partner
 Email: jbrine@oxford.gov.uk

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| Background information |
| The Committee agreed to examine the Council's approach to equalities as part of this year's work programme. |
| Why is the item on the agenda? |
| This report will cover: The results of the peer assessment carried out on Oxford City Council on the Qualities in Local Government Standard Key measures identified as being important to achieving equality in the organisation – feedback and progress from service areas will be reported. |
| Who has been invited to comment? |
| Officers from the service will be invited to attending the meeting. |
| What will happen after the meeting? |
| This will be up to this committee and Scrutiny Committees formed after the May elections. |

6 MINUTES

25 - 28

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2012.

DECLARING INTERESTS

What is a personal interest?

You have a personal interest in a matter if that matter affects the well-being or financial position of you, your relatives or people with whom you have a close personal association more than it would affect the majority of other people in the ward(s) to which the matter relates.

A personal interest can affect you, your relatives or people with whom you have a close personal association positively or negatively. If you or they would stand to lose by the decision, you should also declare it.

You also have a personal interest in a matter if it relates to any interests, which you must register.

What do I need to do if I have a personal interest?

You must declare it when you get to the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you. You may still speak and vote unless it is a prejudicial interest.

If a matter affects a body to which you have been appointed by the authority, or a body exercising functions of a public nature, you only need declare the interest if you are going to speak on the matter.

What is a prejudicial interest?

You have a prejudicial interest in a matter if;

- a) a member of the public, who knows the relevant facts, would reasonably think your personal interest is so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgment of the public interest; and
- b) the matter affects your financial interests or relates to a licensing or regulatory matter; and
- c) the interest does not fall within one of the exempt categories at paragraph 10(2)(c) of the Code of Conduct.

What do I need to do if I have a prejudicial interest?

If you have a prejudicial interest you must withdraw from the meeting. However, under paragraph 12(2) of the Code of Conduct, if members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about that matter, you may also make representations as if you were a member of the public. However, you must withdraw from the meeting once you have made your representations and before any debate starts.

