

Agenda

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Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Monday 6 June 2011**

Time: **5.00 pm**

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

For any further information please contact:

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Communities and Partnership Scrutiny Committee

Membership

Chair

Vice-Chair

Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan	Headington Hill and Northway;
Councillor Laurence Baxter	Quarry and Risinghurst;
Councillor Jim Campbell	St.Margaret's;
Councillor Mary Clarkson	Marston;
Councillor Beverley Hazell	Marston;
Councillor Graham Jones	St Clement's;
Councillor Shah Khan	Cowley;
Councillor Ben Lloyd-Shogbesan	Lye Valley;
Councillor Gill Sanders	Littlemore;
Councillor Dee Sinclair	Quarry and Risinghurst;
Councillor Ruth Wilkinson	Headington;
Councillor Nuala Young	St Clement's;

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AGENDA

Pages

- 1 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR COUNCIL YEAR 2011/2012
- 2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR FOR COUNCIL YEAR 2011/2012
- 3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
- 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Note attached.

- 5 CHANGES TO GUIDANCE ON "CREATING SAFE, STRONG AND PROSPEROUS COMMITTEES"

Background Information	<p>The Government intends to revoke the current Statutory Guidance on "Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities". This includes plans to repeal the two remaining statutory duties covered in it – "Duty to Involve" and "Duty to Prepare and Sustainable Community Strategy"</p> <p>The Government is looking to introduce a minimal "Best Value Statutory Guidance" in its place. This will include a requirement that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorities should be sensitive to the needs of voluntary and community organisations and local businesses; • Authorities should seek to avoid passing on disproportionate cuts to the voluntary and community sector; • An authority threatening
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	<p>to reduce or end funding or resource that will materially threaten the viability of the organisation or the service it provides should give at least 3 months notice to the organisation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An authority should engage the organisation as early as possible on the future of the service.
<p>Why is it on the agenda?</p>	<p>In view of the proposed changes outlined above, it was felt that it would be useful to consider how the voluntary sector in Oxford was coping in the light of changes funding especially from Oxfordshire County Council.</p> <p>Alison Baxter (Oxfordshire Council for Voluntary Action – OCVA) has been invited to attend the meeting and give a short presentation to the Committee concerning:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the voluntary sector in Oxford now is in the light of changes/cuts for funding from Oxfordshire County Council; • What could the City Council do to help support services - this is not necessarily by financial means.
<p>Who has been invited to comment?</p>	<p>Alison Baxter (OCVA) will attend the meeting.</p>
<p>What will happen after the meeting?</p>	<p>Any further work will be considered within the regeneration strand of the committees new work programme.</p>

6 HOUSING STRATEGY UPDATE

1 - 4

Contact Officer – James Edwards (Strategy and Enabling Manager, Housing and Communities) - Tel (01865) 252249, jedwards@oxford.gov.uk

<p>Background Information</p>	<p>The overarching Housing Strategy, with supporting individual policies attached to it, is due to be renewed in 2011.</p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee previously expressed a wish to be involved in the development of, and consultation on, proposals of all elements of these strategies. Of particular interest were elements related to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing families with vulnerable children, and joint working within the CYP Plan; • Older People; • Young People; • The sustainability of tenancies let to vulnerable/challenging individuals and families. <p>Changes to housing funding nationally caused a pause in the development of the strategy.</p> <p>The Council’s Budget proposals recognised the challenges posed by these changes and Includes significant contingencies over the coming 4 years to address these. A request has been made within the work programme for the committee to consider both the development and progress of the housing strategy and changes. The focus suggested is to consider the actual outcomes matched against the contingencies</p>
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	<p>available to deal with these.</p> <p>Consultation on the overarching themes of the Housing Strategy was undertaken with the Council's Talkback Panel in March 2011, and the draft results are being analysed. Final results are expected later in June 2011.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?	<p>The attached report gives an update to the Committee on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial key points from the Talkback Consultation; • Information on Affordable Housing; • Illustration of rent levels In Oxford. <p>It is anticipated that the draft Housing Strategy for 2011 to 2015 will be completed over the summer, with wider consultation expected by September.</p>
Who has been invited to comment?	<p>Graham Stratford (Head of Housing and Communities) will attend the meeting.</p>
What will happen after the meeting?	<p>The Committee should consider If it wishes to add the work suggested to its programme for the coming year</p>

7 END OF YEAR PERFORMANCE FIGURES - COMMUNITY HOUSING

5 - 14

Contact Officer: Lena Haapalahti (Service Development Officer, Housing and Communities) Tel: 01865 252479, email: haapalahti@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information	<p>This is a quarterly monitoring report that the Committee has examined for a number of years.</p> <p>The attached report highlights the</p>
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	performance at the year end (2010/11) in areas of specific interest to the Committee – rough sleeping, homelessness and housing allocations.
Why is it on the agenda?	The attached report gives an overview of performance in the committees area of focus
Who has been invited to comment?	Graham Stratford will attend the meeting and present the information to the Committee.
What will happen after the meeting?	Further consideration of this information will be considered within the work programme setting

8 WORK PROGRAMME AND REPORT BACK ON COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

15 - 34

Contact officer: Pat Jones (Principal Scrutiny Officer), Tel 01865 252191, phjones@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information	<p>Scrutiny Committees work each year within a programme agreed by councillors. The programme for the coming year is yet to be agreed</p> <p>This item will appear on all future agendas to allow members to see progress on their programme items and plan agendas for future meetings</p>
Why is it on the agenda?	<p>Work is currently progressing on the preparation for the coming years programme. Shortly scrutiny members need to decide what they wish to include and how they want to be involved</p> <p>Members are asked to set a date in July for an informal meeting to allow this to happen. The 18th. July is suggested</p> <p>Also included is a report back on the recommendations made by the committee at its last meeting on the County Council's consultation on the</p>

	Household Waste Recycling Centre Strategy
Who has been invited to comment?	The Principal Scrutiny Officer, will present progress so far
What will happen after the meeting?	An informal meeting will be arranged to set the committees programme for the coming year

9 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AREA FORUMS

35 - 56

Contact officer: Pat Jones (Principal Scrutiny Officer), Tel 01865 252191, phjones@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information	The committee nominated Councillors Wilkinson and Sanders to observe the development of Area Forums. There is also a recommendation from the last programme to review the operation of Area Forums at the end of the year
Why is it on the agenda?	The councillors present their observations so far and ask the committee to clarify the next steps
Who has been invited to comment?	Councillors Wilkinson and Sanders will answer questions
What will happen after the meeting?	Any further work will be included in the work programme for the coming year

10 MINUTES

57 - 64

Minutes of the meeting held on 30th March 2011 attached at page 10.1

11 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates have been agreed by Council:

17th October
12th December
7th February 2012
2nd April 2012

Plus, an informal meeting to be arranged - probably in July.

The Committee is also requested to decide at what time its meetings should start. Last year meetings began at 5pm.

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.

