

# Agenda

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## Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Wednesday 3 April 2013**

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Time: **6.00 pm**

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

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For any further information please contact:

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# Value and Performance Scrutiny Committee

## Membership

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Councillor Mark Mills</b>	Holywell;
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<b>Councillor Mike Rowley</b>	Barton and Sandhills;
	<b>Councillor Mohammed Abbasi</b>	Cowley Marsh;
	<b>Councillor Anne-Marie Canning</b>	Carfax;
	<b>Councillor Jean Fooks</b>	Summertown;
	<b>Councillor James Fry</b>	North;
	<b>Councillor Michael Gotch</b>	Wolvercote;
	<b>Councillor Mick Haines</b>	Marston;
	<b>Councillor Pat Kennedy</b>	Lye Valley;
	<b>Councillor Sajjad Malik</b>	Cowley Marsh;
	<b>Councillor Stuart McCready</b>	Summertown;
	<b>Councillor Craig Simmons</b>	St. Mary's;
	<b>Councillor Oscar Van Nooijen</b>	Hinksey Park;

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## AGENDA

Pages

- 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND AND SUBSTITUTIONS
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
- 3 WORK PROGRAMME END OF YEAR REPORT AND FORWARD PLAN

1 - 40

Pat Jones, Principal Scrutiny Officer, Tel: (01865) 252191,  
Email [phjones@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:phjones@oxford.gov.uk);  
Mathew Metcalfe, Democratic Services Officer, Tel: (01865) 252214,  
Email: [mmetcalfe@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:mmetcalfe@oxford.gov.uk)

<b>Background information</b>
The Committee agreed a work programme to pursue during the year 2012 – 2013. Members have been updated on progress as the year has progressed and this report represents the end of year position.
<b>Why is the item on the agenda?</b>
<p>This report highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The end of year position on the work programme.</li><li>• The progress of all recommendations made.</li><li>• Statistics and comparative data.</li><li>• Issues that have arisen and new challenges.</li></ul> <p>Committee is asked to consider the information presented and set a further informal meeting to discuss issues in more detail.</p> <p>Attached alongside the work programme report is the latest version of the Forward Plan to allow members to express interest in any of the issues listed.</p>
<b>Who has been invited to comment?</b>
The Principal Scrutiny Officer, will present this report and the Chair will give his view on the year.
<b>What will happen after the meeting?</b>
An informal meeting will be set to discuss issues further. Any proposals or comments for the coming work programme will be presented for discussion by the committee members appointed in May.

#### 4 RECYCLING RATES AND COUNCIL TARGETS - INTERIM REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY PANEL

41 - 52

Sarah Claridge Democratic Services Officer  
Tel: (01865) 252402,  
Email: sclaridge@oxford.gov.uk

<b>Background information</b>
The Scrutiny Committee set a Panel to consider the ambitions of the Council for its recycling service and what would be needed to improve on these ambitions.
<b>Why is the item on the agenda?</b>
This report sets out the progress and findings of the Panel so far. Information is presented on the data gathered and comparisons made along with issues still to be explored towards further improvement.  The Panel asks to continue this work into the next programme.
<b>Who has been invited to comment?</b>
Panel Members Sarah Claridge – Democratic Services Officer Phil Dunsdon – Waste and Fleet Manager Councillor Tanner – Board Member Cleaner Greener Oxford
<b>What will happen after the meeting?</b>
If agreed the Panel will continue into the next programme.

#### 5 WELFARE REFORM - LEARNING FROM UNIVERSAL CREDIT PILOTS

53 - 66

Paul Wilding – Benefit Operations Manager  
Tel: (01865) 252461  
Email: pwilding@oxford.gov.uk

<b>Background information</b>
The Council is involved in 2 pilot projects connected to Welfare Reform: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Direct payments.</li><li>• Supporting claimants into work.</li></ul> At the last meeting members asked to see further progress and any learning points.

<b>Why is the item on the agenda?</b>
<p>This report highlights and gives details of the effects of these pilots within the claimant co-hort chosen.</p> <p>In particular the committee was interested to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The effects on rent arrears for participating tenants and the likely trends.</li> <li>• Success and obstacles for supporting people into work.</li> <li>• The lessons learnt.</li> </ul>
<b>Who has been invited to comment?</b>
<p>Paul Wilding – Benefit Operations Manager  Councillor Van Coulter – Board Member for Leisure Services  (covering for Councillor Smith)</p>
<b>What will happen after the meeting?</b>
<p>Any comments from the committee will be passed for consideration in the coming work programme.</p>

## 6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY - LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

67 - 72

Jarlath Brine – Equalities and Diversity Business Partner  
Tel: (01865) 252848  
Email: jbrine@oxford.gov.uk

<b>Background information</b>
<p>The Committees work programme included a continuing item to consider the Councils workforce and its match to the population of Oxford. Members considered workforce data at their meeting in January and asked for further data on training.</p>
<b>Why is the item on the agenda?</b>
<p>The report presents details of the training strategy and its application.</p> <p>Members in particular wanted to understand how training budgets are or could be used to progress staff from under represented groups through the organisation.</p>
<b>Who has been invited to comment?</b>
<p>Jarlath Brine – Equalities and diversity Business Partner  Simon Howick – Head of Human Resources and Facilities  Councillor Price – Council Leader</p>

<b>What will happen after the meeting?</b>
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Any comments from the committee will be passed to the Board Member and for consideration in the coming work programme.
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**7 GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

73 - 130

William Reed – Democratic Services Manager  
Tel: (01865) 252230  
Email: wreed@oxford.gov.uk

<b>Background information</b>
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The Localism Act 2011 included provisions for councils to reconsider their governance arrangements. Oxford has reviewed its structures through a Cross Party Member Reference Group.
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<b>Why is the item on the agenda?</b>
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Committee asked to pre-scrutinise the proposals from the Cross Party Member Reference Group that will be considered at the City Executive Board on the 10 <sup>th</sup> . April and passed to Council on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> . April for agreement.
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The proposals are attached.

<b>Who has been invited to comment?</b>
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William Reed – Democratic Services Manager. Jeremy Thomas – Head of Law and Governance. Councillor Price – Leader of the Council
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<b>What will happen after the meeting?</b>
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Any comments or recommendations will be passed to the City Executive Board and Council.
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**8 MINUTES**

131 - 138

Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013.

**9 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

This is the final meeting in this cycle.

## **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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

