

# Agenda

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## Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Tuesday 4 March 2014**

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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:

**Pat Jones**

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Email: [phjones@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:phjones@oxford.gov.uk)

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# Scrutiny Committee

## Membership

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Councillor Mark Mills</b>	Holywell;
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	<b>Councillor Gill Sanders</b>	Littlemore;
	<b>Councillor Mohammed Abbasi</b>	Cowley Marsh;
	<b>Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan</b>	Headington Hill and Northway;
	<b>Councillor Jim Campbell</b>	St. Margaret's;
	<b>Councillor Van Coulter</b>	Barton and Sandhills;
	<b>Councillor Roy Darke</b>	Headington Hill and Northway;
	<b>Councillor James Fry</b>	North;
	<b>Councillor Ben Lloyd-Shogbesan</b>	Lye Valley;
	<b>Councillor Craig Simmons</b>	St. Mary's;
	<b>Councillor Val Smith</b>	Blackbird Leys;
	<b>Councillor Louise Upton</b>	North;

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## AGENDA

Pages

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Quorum for this Committee is four Members and substitutes are allowed.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in any of the following agenda items. Guidance on this is set out at the end of these agenda pages.

### 3 WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

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Contact Officer: Pat Jones, Principal Scrutiny Officer, Tel: 01865 252191  
Email: [phjones@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:phjones@oxford.gov.uk)

Background Information
<p>The Scrutiny Committee operates within a work programme which has been set for the year 2013-2014.</p> <p>The programme will be reviewed at every meeting so that it can be adjusted to reflect the wishes of the Committee.</p> <p>In addition, the Forward Plan is attached so that the Committee can decide if it wishes to pre-scrutinise any item.</p>
Why is it on the agenda?
<p>This report allows Committee to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hear updates from Lead Members.</li><li>• Consider forward agendas and issues.</li></ul> <p>In particular the Committee is asked to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The consultation outcome for the Community Engagement Strategy was requested by the Committee. This has been delayed because of an agreed extension to the consultation period in an effort to increase participation. A renewed timetable was not available at the time of writing.</li><li>• An action plan is being developed to deliver the recommendations made by the Committee on employment of staff from BME communities.</li><li>• The evaluation of the Leadership Programme linked to the City's investment in educational attainment will be available to the Committee at the April meeting.</li><li>• At the last meeting members asked to see further information</li></ul>

<p>on the reasons for the downward trend in targets for recycling and landfill. A copy of the report to the City Executive Board in September 2013 outlining changes in these targets is attached. Geoff Corps, the Service Manager, will be available to answer member's questions.</p>
<p>Who has been invited to comment?</p>
<p>Pat Jones, Principal Scrutiny Officer, will present the work programme, answer questions and support the Committee in its decision making.</p>
<p>What will happen after the meeting?</p>
<p>The work programme will be updated and republished.</p>

**4 REPORT BACK ON RECOMMENDATIONS**

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Contact Officer: Pat Jones, Principal Scrutiny Officer, 01865 252191  
email: [phjones@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:phjones@oxford.gov.uk)

<p>Background Information</p>
<p>The Committee makes a number of recommendations to Officers and decision makers. This item allows Committee to see the result of recommendations since the last meeting and the cumulative results of all its recommendations.</p>
<p>Why is it on the agenda?</p>
<p>The results of recommendations to CEB, 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014 on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment of staff from BME Groups (to the Board Member);</li> <li>• Educational Attainment Investment programme;</li> <li>• Covered Market Review;</li> <li>• Treasury Management Strategy 2014/2015</li> <li>• Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 14/15 to 17/18</li> </ul> <p>are the latest items on the list.</p>
<p>Who has been invited to comment?</p>
<p>Pat Jones, Principal Scrutiny Officer will present the item.</p>
<p>What will happen after the meeting?</p>
<p>Any comments or follow up from the Committee will be included in the work programme.</p>

## 5 DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS - MONITORING REPORT

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Contact Officer: Paul Wilding, Benefit Operations Manager, 01865 252461  
Email: pwilding@oxford.gov.uk

<b>Background Information</b>
<p>In June 2013 the Scrutiny Committee considered the Discretionary Housing Payments Scheme and made recommendations to the City Executive Board which were accepted.</p> <p>The Committee appointed Councillor Coulter as the Lead Member for this item.</p>
<b>Why is it on the agenda?</b>
<p>One of the accepted recommendations was for a monitoring report to be presented quarterly to the Scrutiny Committee; this is the third of these reports.</p> <p>The Committees has agreed the following aims in reviewing this information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the current policy placing pressure on other vulnerable groups</li><li>• Is there an unmet need</li><li>• What are the profiles (human and geography) of those we help and those we turn away?</li><li>• Cost profile – are we spending within budget.</li><li>• What are the real effects of conditionality both in financial and behavioural terms?</li><li>• Where should our priorities lie should a rethink of policy be necessary.</li></ul>
<b>Who has been invited to comment?</b>
<p>Councillor Brown, Board Member for Benefits and Customer Services, and Paul Wilding will attend to answer the Committee's questions.</p>
<b>What will happen after the meeting?</b>
<p>Any recommendations will be presented to the Board Member or City Executive Board at the next available meeting.</p>

Contact Officer: Robert Hetherington (Economic Development Manager);  
01865 252012, [rhetherington@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:rhetherington@oxford.gov.uk).

<p><b>Background Information</b></p> <p>As part of the 2013 Spending Review, the Government announced proposals for strengthening the role of Local Enterprise Partnerships by introducing the concept of Growth Deals which will be supported by a Single Local Growth Fund.</p> <p>Through Growth Deals, Local Enterprise Partnerships can seek freedoms and flexibilities from Government as well as a share of the new Single Local Growth Fund. Growth Deals (and access to the Single Local Growth Fund) will be based on the production of a Strategic Economic Plan.</p> <p>Discussions are continuing with the Local Enterprise Partnership and other partners to produce a final Strategic Economic Plan for delivery to the Government no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.</p> <p>The Government will undertake a formal assessment of the Strategic Economic Plan following its submission in March.</p> <p>The City Council continues to support the Local Enterprise Partnership to develop and finalise the Strategic Economic Plan by providing staffing support to work alongside County Council and other partners.</p>
<p><b>Why is it on the agenda?</b></p> <p>This report outlines the Draft Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan and the timetable for its submission to Government. It outlines the City Council commitments.</p> <p>It is presented here to allow pre-scrutiny before being presented to the City Executive Board on 12<sup>th</sup> March and Council on the 14<sup>th</sup>. April for agreement.</p>
<p><b>Who has been invited to comment?</b></p> <p>Robert Hetherington (Economic Development Manager) and David Edwards (Executive Director City Regeneration and Housing) will attend.</p> <p>The Board Member, Councillor Price, is unable to attend but has offered to come to a future meeting if Committee wish.</p>
<p><b>What will happen after the meeting?</b></p> <p>Any comments will be passed to the City Executive Board for consideration.</p>

**7 MINUTES**

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Minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**8 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The following meeting date has been agreed:

1<sup>st</sup> April 2014

6<sup>th</sup> May 2014

## **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.



