

Agenda

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Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

Date: **Thursday 9 October 2014**

Time: **5.00 pm**

Place: **Plowman Room - Town Hall**

For any further information please contact:

Andrew Brown

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Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

Membership

Chair

Vice Chair

Councillor Gill Sanders

Councillor Sam Hollick

Councillor Elizabeth Wade

Linda Hill

Co-optee

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AGENDA

Pages

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR

For elected Councillors on the Panel to elect a chair.

2 APOLOGIES

The Quorum for this Panel is three and substitutes are allowed.

3 WORK PROGRAMME

Officer: Andrew Brown, Scrutiny Officer
Telephone: 01865 252230
Email: abrown2@oxford.gov.uk

This item presents for discussion the Housing Panel work programme.

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4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING (HOUSING MEASURES)

Officer: Andrew Brown, Scrutiny Officer
Telephone: 01865 252230
Email: abrown2@oxford.gov.uk

This report contains outcomes at August 2014 for the set of housing performance indicators chosen by members the Scrutiny Committee. Performance indicators are grouped according to the themes chosen by the Panel:

- Welfare reform and the housing crisis.
- Housing supply.
- Estate regeneration.

3 - 6

5 DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY

Officer: Gary Parsons, Housing Strategy and Performance Manager
Telephone: 01865 252711
Email: gparsons@oxford.gov.uk

7 - 68

Background Information
The Draft Housing Strategy is a refresh of the existing strategy which expires in April 2015. The Strategy contains the proposed housing priorities for the next three years. The City Executive Board on 15 October 2014 will be asked to: - Approve the Draft Housing Strategy and Action Plan for wider consultation
Why is it on the agenda?
For the Panel to scrutinise the Draft Housing Strategy 2015-2018 and contribute to the development of this strategy.
Who has been invited to comment?
Councillor Seamons and Gary Parsons have been invited to present the strategy and answer Member's questions.

6 RENT ARREARS ANALYSIS AND PROFILES

69 - 78

Officer: Helen Bishop, Head of Customer Services
 Telephone: 01865 252233
 Email: hbishop@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
At the Panel meeting in January, members agreed to review rent arrears on a six monthly basis. The report contains rent arrears data up to and including August 2014.
Why is it on the agenda?
For members to review and scrutinise rents performance.
Who has been invited to comment?
Helen Bishop, Head of Customer Services, and Tanya Bandekar, Service Manager for Revenues and Benefits, have been invited to present their report and answer Member's questions.

7 LEASEHOLDER PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR MAJOR WORKS

79 - 90

Officer: Stephen Clarke, Head of Housing
 Telephone: 01865 252447
 Email: sclarke@oxford.gov.uk

<p>Background Information</p> <p>Report to identify and select the preferred repayment options to be made available to dwelling leaseholders with regards to rechargeable major repairs undertaken by the Council to their block of flats. The City Executive Board on 15 October 2014 will be asked to consider the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Financial Assistance Framework set out in Appendix 2 of this report is approved. The framework sets out the repayment options which may be offered to leaseholders being charged for major works undertaken by the Council on residential blocks of flats. • That where leaseholders are unable to pay a major works invoice in full within 14 days of receipt, they are entitled to apply for assistance under the Financial Assistance Framework. Applications will be assessed based on the qualifying eligibility criteria as set out in this report. • That delegated authority is granted to the Head of Finance and the Head of Housing & Property to operate the Financial Assistance Framework and the assessment process. • That the Council adopts the process for dealing with exceptional hardship as set out in "<i>The Social Landlords Discretionary Reduction of Service Charges (England) Directions 2014</i>".
<p>Why is it on the agenda?</p> <p>The Scrutiny Committee on 23 June identified this item for pre-scrutiny.</p>
<p>Who has been invited to comment?</p> <p>Councillor Seamons, Board Member for Housing and Estate Regeneration, and Stephen Clarke, Head of Housing, have been invited to attend to introduce their report and answer questions.</p>

8 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Notes of the meetings held on 3 and 29 April 2014.

9 FUTURE MEETING DATES

15 January 2015 (proposed Housing Revenue Account scrutiny session)
22 January 2015
4 February 2015

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 interest 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.