

Agenda

www.oxford.gov.uk



Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Tuesday 12 January 2016**

Time: **6.15 pm**

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

For any further information please contact:

Catherine Phythian, Committee Services Officer

Telephone: 01865 252402

Email: cphythian@oxford.gov.uk

As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record the meeting please let the Contact Officer know how you wish to do this before the start of the meeting.

Scrutiny Committee

Membership

Chair	Councillor Craig Simmons
	Councillor Tom Hayes
	Councillor Van Coulter
	Councillor Roy Darke
	Councillor James Fry
	Councillor Andrew Gant
	Councillor Sam Hollick
	Councillor David Henwood
	Councillor Ben Lloyd-Shogbesan
	Councillor Jennifer Pegg
	Councillor Linda Smith
	Councillor Sian Taylor

The quorum for this Committee is four, substitutes are permitted.

HOW TO OBTAIN A COPY OF THE AGENDA

In order to reduce the use of resources, our carbon footprint and our costs we will no longer produce paper copies of agenda over and above our minimum requirements. Paper copies may be looked at the Town Hall Reception and at Customer Services, St Aldate's and at the Westgate Library

A copy of the agenda may be:-

- Viewed on our website – mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk
- Downloaded from our website
- Subscribed to electronically by registering online at mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk

AGENDA

Pages

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 OXPENS REVISED DELIVERY STRATEGY

9 - 20

Contact Officer: David Edwards, Executive Director, Regeneration & Housing
Tel 01865 252394, dedwards@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
The Scrutiny Committee and Council have asked for this item to be included on the agenda for pre-decision scrutiny.
Why is it on the agenda?
The City Executive Board will be asked to consider the report which proposes a revised delivery strategy for the Oxpens development at its special meeting on 14 January 2015. This is an opportunity for the Scrutiny Committee to make recommendations to the City Executive Board.
Who has been invited to comment?
The following officers will attend to present the report and answer the Committee's questions: - David Edwards, Executive Director, Regeneration & Housing - Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services - Lindsay Cane, Legal Services Manager

4 REPORT FROM HOUSING STANDING PANEL - RENTS PERFORMANCE

21 - 22

Contact Officer: Andrew Brown, Scrutiny Officer
Tel 01865 252230, abrown2@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
The Housing Panel recently scrutinised the Council's rents performance and agreed to put two recommendations to the City Executive Board.
Why is it on the agenda?
For the Scrutiny Committee to review and comment on the report of the Housing Panel before it is submitted to the City Executive Board

on 21 January 2015.

Who has been invited to comment?

Councillor Linda Smith, the Chair of the Housing Panel will present the report.

5 REPORT FROM HOUSING STANDING PANEL - CHOICE BASED LETTINGS

23 - 24

Contact Officer: Andrew Brown, Scrutiny Officer
Tel 01865 252230, abrown2@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information

The Housing Panel recently scrutinised proposed changes to the Choice Based Lettings scheme and agreed to put two recommendations to the City Executive Board.

Why is it on the agenda?

For the Scrutiny Committee to review and comment on the report of the Housing Panel before it is submitted to the City Executive Board on 21 January 2015.

Who has been invited to comment?

Councillor Linda Smith, the Chair of the Housing Panel will present the report.

6 WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

25 - 52

Contact Officer: Andrew Brown, Scrutiny Officer
Tel 01865 252230, abrown2@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information

The Scrutiny Committee operates within a work programme which has been set for the 2015/16 municipal year. The programme is reviewed at each meeting so that it can be adjusted to reflect the wishes of the Committee and take account of changes to the latest [Forward Plan](#) (which outlines decisions to be taken by the City Executive Board or Council).

Why is it on the agenda?

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to review its work programme for the 2015/16 council year.

This is an opportunity for the Chairs of the Standing Panels and Review Groups to provide an update as necessary.

The Committee is also asked to select which Forward Plan items they wish to pre-scrutinise based on the following criteria:

- Is the issue controversial / of significant public interest?
- Is it an area of high expenditure?
- Is it an essential service / corporate priority?
- Can Scrutiny influence and add value?

A maximum of three items for pre-scrutiny will normally apply.

Who has been invited to comment?

Andrew Brown, Scrutiny Officer will present the work programme, answer questions and support the Committee in its decision making.

7 REPORT BACK ON RECOMMENDATIONS

53 - 72

Contact Officer: Andrew Brown, Scrutiny Officer,
Tel 01865 252230, abrown2@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information

The Committee makes a number of recommendations to the City Executive Board, which is obliged to respond in writing.

Why is it on the agenda?

This item allows Committee to see the results of recommendations since the last meeting.

Since the last meeting the following items have resulted in recommendations to the City Executive Board:

- Community Centre Strategy 2016-20
- Resettling Syrian Refugees in Oxford
- Asset Management Plan

The City Executive Board is expected to respond to the recommendations of the Guest Houses Review Group at its meeting on 21 January.

Also included are lists of recommendations made by the Committee in the last 18 months that have not yet been fully implemented. The Committee is asked to review these and can request updates from officers where required.

Who has been invited to comment?

Andrew Brown, Scrutiny Officer will present the report.

8 MINUTES

73 - 78

Minutes from 9 December 2015

Recommendation: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2015 be APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

9 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Meetings are scheduled as followed:

Scrutiny Committee

20 January 2016 (if needed)

2 February 2016

7 March 2016

5 April 2016

All meetings start at 6.15 pm.

Standing Panels

Housing Standing Panel – 1 February 2016

Finance Standing Panel – 28 January 2016

10 MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

If the Board wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the exempt from publication part of the agenda, it will be necessary for the Board to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Schedule I2A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Board may maintain the exemption if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

PART TWO **MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION**

11 CONFIDENTIAL APPENDICES - OXPENS DELIVERY STRATEGY

79 - 90

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.

*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.