

# Agenda

## Scrutiny Committee

Date: **Tuesday 5 April 2016**

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Time: **6.15 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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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

<b>Chair</b>	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 Linda Smith
	Councillor Sian Taylor
	Councillor Jennifer Pegg

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

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## AGENDA

### Pages

#### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (6.15 PM)

#### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (6.16 PM)

#### 3 YOUTH AMBITION (6.17 PM)

11 - 24

Contact Officer: Hagan Lewisman, Active Communities Manager Tel: 01865 252706 hlewisman@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
The Scrutiny Committee requested a report on the Council's Youth Ambition programme. This was a high priority item for the Committee when it agreed its work plan for 2015-16.
Why is it on the agenda?
For the Scrutiny Committee to consider the Council's Youth Ambition programme, including spend and outcomes.
Who has been invited to comment?
Councillor Pat Kennedy, Board Member for Young People, Schools and Skills; Ian Brooke, Head of Community Services; Hagan Lewisman, Active Communities Manager; Craig Morbey, Youth Ambition Manager.

#### 4 TACKLING ELDERLY ISOLATION (6.40 PM)

25 - 30

Contact Officer: Luke Nipen, Communities Specialist Officer Tel: 07717881073 lnipen@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
The Scrutiny Committee requested a report on tackling elderly isolation. This was a high priority item for the Committee when it agreed its work plan for 2015-16 and follows a previous discussion in February 2015.
Why is it on the agenda?
For the Scrutiny Committee to consider Council funded projects aimed at tackling elderly isolation including any future plans and the expected impacts of County funding cuts.
Who has been invited to comment?
Cllr Christine Simm, Board Member for Culture and Communities; Cllr Gill Sanders, Older Person's Champion; Ian Brooke, Head of Community Services; Luke Nipen, Communities Specialist Officer.

## 5 **GRAFFITI UPDATE (7.05 PM)**

Contact Officer: Doug Loveridge, Streetscene Services Manager  
dloveridge@oxford.gov.uk

31 - 34

Background Information
The Scrutiny Committee requested an update report on the issue of graffiti. This follows a previous discussion in December 2014 when the Committee was advised that graffiti removal on privately owned property remained a significant challenge and that the Council had no powers to remove graffiti from these properties without the consent of the owner.
Why is it on the agenda?
For the Scrutiny Committee to consider an update on efforts to tackle graffiti, including the impacts of an additional officer post focused on graffiti removal.
Who has been invited to comment?
Councillor John Tanner, Board Member for Climate Change and Cleaner Greener Oxford; Doug Loveridge, Streetscene Services Manager.

## 6 **DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENT POLICY - 2016 REVISION (7.20 PM)**

35 - 58

Contact Officer: Paul Wilding, Programme Manager Revenue & Benefits Tel: 01865 252461 pwilding@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
The Scrutiny Committee has 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 approve the report at its meeting on 14 April 2016. This is an opportunity for the Scrutiny Committee to make recommendations to the City Executive Board.
Who has been invited to comment?
Councillor Susan Brown, Executive Board Member Customer and Corporate Services; Paul Wilding, Revenues & Benefits Programme Manager.

## **7 RECOMMENDATION MONITORING - LOCAL ECONOMY REVIEW GROUP (7.35 PM)**

59 - 64

Contact Officer: Laurie Jane Taylor, City Centre Manager  
ltaylor@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
The Scrutiny Committee commissioned the Local Economy Review Group in 2014-15 to consider support for city centre businesses such as independent retailers during a time of major redevelopments in strategic locations across the city centre. The Review Group reported in June 2015 and made ten recommendations to the City Executive Board.
Why is it on the agenda?
For the Scrutiny Committee to consider a progress report and monitor the implementation of agreed recommendations.
Who has been invited to comment?
Councillor James Fry, Chair of the Local Economy Review Group; David Edwards, Executive Director for Regeneration and Housing; Fiona Piercy, Partnership and Regeneration Manager; Laurie-Jane Taylor, City Centre Manager.

## **8 TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN (7.50 PM)**

65 - 74

Contact Officer: Stuart Fitzsimmons, Parks and Open Spaces Manager  
sfitzsimmons@oxford.gov.uk

Background Information
The Scrutiny Committee requested an item on the Tree Management Plan, which was adopted in 2008 and last reviewed in 2011. The Tree Management Plan was the subject of discussions at the Parish Forum in March 2016.
Why is it on the agenda?
For the Scrutiny Committee to consider the current Tree Management Plan and provide comment and suggestions to inform a possible refresh of this Policy.
Who has been invited to comment?
Councillor Mark Lygo, Board Member for Leisure, Sport and Events; Stuart Fitzsimmons, Parks and Open Spaces Manager.

## 9 REPORT OF THE HOUSING PANEL - SECURITY IN TOWER BLOCKS (8.10 PM)

75 - 78

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

Background Information
The Housing Panel considered a report on security in communal areas of tower blocks at its meeting on 9 March 2016.
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 14 April 2016.
Who has been invited to comment?
Councillor Linda Smith, Chair of the Housing Panel.

## 10 WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

79 - 106

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

Background Information
This is the final meeting of the current council year. In June the new Scrutiny Committee will agree its work plan for 2016-17. All members have been asked to provide suggested topics and issues for inclusion in the new work plan by 20 May 2016.
Why is it on the agenda?
For the Scrutiny Committee to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Note the draft agenda schedule for the June meeting.</li><li>2. Review the <a href="#">Forward Plan</a> and select items for pre-decision scrutiny at the June meeting based on the following criteria:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Is the issue controversial / of significant public interest?</i></li><li>• <i>Is it an area of high expenditure?</i></li><li>• <i>Is it an essential service / corporate priority?</i></li><li>• <i>Can Scrutiny influence and add value?</i></li></ul></li><li>3. Note the list of suggestions received to date for the 2016-17 scrutiny work plan and propose any additional items for consideration.</li><li>4. Note any verbal updates from the chairs of standing panels and review groups.</li></ol>

Who has been invited to comment?
Andrew Brown, Scrutiny Officer; Councillor Linda Smith, Chair of the Housing Panel; Councillor Craig Simmons, Chair of the Finance Panel; Councillor Tom Hayes, Chair of the Equality & Diversity Group

## 11 REPORT BACK ON RECOMMENDATIONS

107 - 114

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 and the Board 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. City Executive Board responses to recommendations on the following items are listed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Housing Company for Oxford;</li> <li>• Oxford Waterways Public Spaces Protection Order consultation;</li> <li>• Universal Credit Delivery Partnership Agreement;</li> <li>• Report of the Guest Houses Review Group.</li> </ul>
Who has been invited to comment?
Andrew Brown, Scrutiny Officer.

## 12 MINUTES

115 - 120

Minutes from 7 March 2016

**Recommendation:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2016 be APPROVED as a true and accurate record.

## 13 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Meetings are scheduled as followed:

### Scrutiny Committee

7 June 2016

6 October 2016

4 July 2016

7 November 2016

5 September 2016

6 December 2016

All meetings start at 6.00 pm.

### Standing Panels

Housing Standing Panel – 11 April 2016; 7 July 2016

Finance Standing Panel – 7 April 2016; 8 September 2016

## **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.