

# Agenda

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## Scrutiny Committee

This meeting will be held on:

Date: **Tuesday 6 February 2024**

Time: **6.00 pm**

Place: **Long Room - Oxford Town Hall**

**For further information** please contact:

Lucy Brown, Committee and Member Services Officer,

01865 252784  [DemocraticServices@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:DemocraticServices@oxford.gov.uk)

**Members of the public can attend to observe this meeting and.**

- may register in advance to speak to the committee in accordance with the [committee's rules](#)
- may record all or part of the meeting in accordance with the Council's [protocol](#)

Information about speaking and recording is set out in the agenda and on the [website](#)

Please contact the Committee Services Officer to register to speak; to discuss recording the meeting; or with any other queries.

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*All public papers are available from the calendar link to this meeting once published*

## **Committee Membership**

Councillors: Membership 12: Quorum 4 substitutes are permitted.

Councillor Lucy Pegg (Chair)

Councillor Mike Rowley (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan

Councillor Lubna Arshad

Councillor Shaista Aziz

Councillor Tiago Corais

Councillor Lizzy Diggins

Councillor Dr Sandy Douglas

Councillor James Fry

Councillor Chris Jarvis

Councillor Dr Christopher Smowton

Councillor Imogen Thomas

Apologies and notification of substitutes received before the publication are shown under *Apologies for absence* in the agenda. Those sent after publication will be reported at the meeting. Substitutes for the Chair and Vice-chair do not take on these roles.

# Agenda

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>1 Apologies for absence</b>	
<b>2 Declarations of interest</b>	
<b>3 Chair's Announcements</b>	
<b>4 Minutes</b>	9 - 16
<p>Minutes from 16 January 2024.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2024 be APPROVED as a true and accurate record.</p>	
<b>5 Work Plan and Forward Plan</b>	17 - 22
<p>The work plan is driven to a very large extent by the Cabinet Forward Plan, a summary of which is attached. The Scrutiny Committee agrees its priorities for items coming onto the Forward Plan, which then form part of its work plan.</p> <p>The Committee is recommended to confirm its agreement to the work plan, or agree any amendments as required.</p>	
<b>6 Report back on recommendations and from Scrutiny Panel meetings</b>	23 - 62
<p>At its meeting on 24 January 2024, Cabinet considered the following reports from Scrutiny and made responses to the recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Leisure Services Contract Award</li><li>- Draft Corporate Strategy 2024-28 for Consultation</li><li>- Private Rented Sector Regulation Policies – Results of Consultation</li><li>- DAHA Accreditation and Domestic Abuse Review Group Update</li><li>- Biodiversity Action Plan for Oxford City Council Parks and Nature Areas – September 2023 Review</li><li>- Retrofit</li></ul> <p>Since the Scrutiny Committee's previous meeting on 16 January 2024,</p>	

the following Panels have met:

- Finance and Performance Panel (22 January 2024)

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note Cabinet's responses to its recommendations
2. Note any updates from Panel meetings

## **7 Capital Strategy 2024/25 to 2027/28**

63 - 110

Cabinet, at its meeting on 07 February 2024, will consider a report from the Head of Financial Services seeking a recommendation to Council for the approval of the Capital Strategy 2024/25 to 2027/28. Cllr Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management, Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services and Bill Lewis, Financial Accounting Manager, have been invited to present the report and answer questions. The Committee is asked to consider the report and agree any recommendations.

## **8 Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25**

111 -  
154

Cabinet, at its meeting on 07 February 2024, will consider a report from the Head of Financial Services seeking a recommendation to Council for the approval of the Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25, Borrowing Strategy 2024/25, Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement, Investment Strategy 2024/25 and Treasury Management Scheme of Delegation. Cllr Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management and Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services, have been invited to present the report and answer questions. The Committee is asked to consider the report and agree any recommendations.

## **9 Adult Exploitation**

155 -  
166

Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on 04 July 2023, requested a report on Adult Exploitation. Cllr Mark Lygo, Cabinet Member for Safer and Inclusive Communities and Nicola Bell, Anti-Slavery Coordinator Oxfordshire have been invited to present the report and answer questions. The Committee is asked to consider the report and agree any recommendations.

## **10 Reports for approval**

*Appendices B and C to this item include exempt information pursuant to Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. If the Scrutiny Committee wishes to discuss matters relating to the information set out in Appendices B and C to the report, it will be necessary for the Scrutiny Committee to pass a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting (as set out at agenda item 12).*

The Committee is asked to approve the report and recommendations of the Budget Review Group 2024/25 for submission to Cabinet (report to follow).

## **11 Dates of future meetings**

### **Scrutiny Committee**

- 04 March 2024
- 11 April 2024

### **Standing Panels**

Housing & Homelessness: 07 March 2024

Finance & Performance: 26 March 2024

Climate & Environment: 27 February 2024; 20 March 2024

Companies Scrutiny Panel will meet on the same dates as the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group (SJVG): 27 March 2024; 24 April 2024

**All meetings start at 6.00 pm.**

## **12 Matters exempt or part exempt from publication and exclusion of the public**

If the Committee wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any aspects of the preceding or following agenda items it will be necessary for the Committee to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 specifying the grounds on which their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act 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.

(The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Section 15 of the

Council's Constitution – sets out the conditions under which the public can be excluded from meetings of the Council).

**12a Reports for Approval - exempt appendices**

## **Information for those attending**

### **Recording and reporting on meetings held in public**

Members of public and press can record, or report in other ways, the parts of the meeting open to the public. You are not required to indicate in advance but it helps if you notify the Committee Services Officer prior to the meeting so that they can inform the Chair and direct you to the best place to record.

The Council asks those recording the meeting:

- To follow the protocol which can be found on the Council's [website](#)
- Not to disturb or disrupt the meeting
- Not to edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation of the proceedings. This includes not editing an image or views expressed in a way that may ridicule or show a lack of respect towards those being recorded.
- To avoid recording members of the public present, even inadvertently, unless they are addressing the meeting.

Please be aware that you may be recorded during your speech and any follow-up. If you are attending please be aware that recording may take place and that you may be inadvertently included in these.

The Chair of the meeting has absolute discretion to suspend or terminate any activities that in his or her opinion are disruptive.

### **Councillors 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; licenses 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". 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.

#### **Members Code – Other Registrable Interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing\*\* of one of your Other Registrable Interests\*\*\* then you must declare an

interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

### **Members Code – Non Registrable Interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which ***directly relates*** to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests, then you must declare the interest.

You must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room, if you answer in the affirmative to this test:

“Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.”

Otherwise, you may stay in the room, take part in the discussion and vote.

\*Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member’s spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

\*\* Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person’s quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

\*\*\* Other Registrable Interests: a) any unpaid directorships b) any Body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority c) any Body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.