

# Agenda

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## Scrutiny Committee

This meeting will be held on:

Date: **Wednesday 29 January 2025**

Time: **6.00 pm**

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

**For further information** please contact:

Celeste Reyeslao, Scrutiny and Governance Advisor

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**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 Katherine Miles (Chair)

Councillor Tiago Corais (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan

Councillor Chris Jarvis

Councillor Dr Amar Latif

Councillor Sajjad Malik

Councillor Edward Mundy

Councillor Simon Ottino

Councillor Asima Qayyum

Councillor Dianne Regisford

Councillor Mike Rowley

Councillor Anne Stares

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

	Pages
<b>1 Apologies for absence</b>	
<b>2 Declarations of interest</b>	
<b>3 Chair's Announcements</b>	
<b>4 Minutes</b>	
Minutes from 14 January 2025	
<b><u>Recommendation:</u></b> That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2025 be APPROVED as a true and accurate record.	
<i>Minutes to be published as part of a supplement to the agenda.</i>	
<b>5 Work Plan</b>	11 - 12
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 <a href="#">Forward Plan</a> , which then form part of its Work Plan.	
The Committee is recommended to confirm its agreement to the Work Plan, or agree any amendments as required.	
<b>6 Report back on recommendations and from Scrutiny Panel meetings</b>	
At its meeting on 22 January 2025, Cabinet considered the following reports from Scrutiny and made responses to the recommendations:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Governance changes to address the increase in Urgent Key Decisions</li><li>• Council of Sanctuary Framework</li><li>• HRA Rent Setting</li><li>• Flood Management</li></ul>	
The Committee is asked to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Note</b> Cabinet's responses to its recommendations.</li><li>2. <b>Note</b> any updates from Panel meetings.</li></ol>	

*The reports will be published as part of a supplement to the agenda.*

**7 Grant Allocations to Community & Voluntary Organisations 2025/26**

Cabinet, at its meeting on 5 February 2025, will consider a report from the Deputy Chief Executive – Citizen and Customer Services, seeking approval for Grant Allocations to Community & Voluntary Organisation for 2025-2026.

Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, Tom Hook, Deputy Chief Executive – Citizen and Customer Services, and Paula Redway Culture and Community Development Manager have been invited to present the report and answer questions.

*This report will be published as part of a supplement to the agenda.*

**8 Equalities Update**

13 - 68

Cabinet, at its meeting on 5 February 2025, will consider a report from the Head of Business Improvement, seeking approval for Equalities Update.

Councillor Nigel Chapman, Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services and Council Companies, Helen Bishop, Director of Communities and Citizens, and Gail Malkin, Head of People, have been invited to present the report and answer questions.

**9 Cowley Branch Line - delivery stage funding**

69 - 82

Cabinet, at its meeting on 5 February 2025, will consider a report from the Deputy Chief Executive – Place, seeking approval for Reopening the Cowley Branch Line.

Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Planning, Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory), Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management, Tom Bridgman, Deputy Chief Executive – Place, and Rui Marcelino, Regeneration Manager – Green Transport have been invited to present the report and answer questions.

**10 Revised Masterplan and Business Case for the Covered Market Masterplan**

83 - 134

Cabinet, at its meeting on 5 February 2025, will consider a report from the Deputy Chief Executive – Place, seeking approval for Revised Masterplan and Business Case for the Covered Market Masterplan.

Councillor Ed Turner, Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management, Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Business, Culture and an Inclusive Economy, Tom Bridgman, Deputy Chief Executive – Place, and Andrew Humpherson, Regeneration Manager, have been invited to present the report and answer questions.

## **11 Report of the Budget Review Group 2025/2026**

*Appendix B to this item includes 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 Appendix B 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 Scrutiny and Governance Advisor has submitted a report on behalf of the Chair of the Budget Review Group, following endorsement from the Finance and Performance Panel on 21 January 2025. The Committee is asked to approve the report and recommendations of the Budget Review Group for submission to Cabinet.

*The report will be published as part of a supplement to the agenda.*

## **12 Dates of future meetings**

### **Scrutiny Committee**

- 03 March 2025
- 26 March 2025

### **Standing Panels**

Housing & Homelessness: 06 March 2025

Finance & Performance: 07 April 2025

Climate & Environment: 26 February 2025; 27 March 2025

**All meetings start at 6.00 pm.**

## **13 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).

**13a) Revised Masterplan and Business Case for the Covered Market Masterplan – exempt appendix**

**13b) Report of the Budget Review Group 2025/2026 – exempt appendix**

## **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.