

Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2013 - 2014

This programme represents the work of the Scrutiny Committee. It is divided between those items to be considered at:

- Full Committee Meetings – Agenda schedules at the end of this document.
- Standing Panels
- Review Panels in progress
- Potential Review Panels

Potential Review Panel items will only come forward for consideration as resources allow.

The programme also lists:

- Decisions called in.
- Councillor calls for action.
- New items suggested for scrutiny by councillors or residents.

Full Committee Meetings

Topic	Area(s) for focus	Progress	Lead and other Councillors
Thames Water investment to improve flooding and sewage issues in the City.	To consider the experience of Swindon Council in influencing Thames Water.	Committee agreed to extend the Panel membership to allow a group of councillors to meet officers in October to take a brief on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amount of investment already made by TW. • What further investment is needed. • Advice on our priorities for this 	Lead: Councillor Darke Councillors Pressel, Hollick and Jones.

		<p>investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the City Council responsibilities as riparian owners and what money is available to deliver on these responsibilities. • Any lessons that can be learnt from Swindon. <p>This Group will then advise the committee on the best focus for this item.</p>	
Discretionary Housing Payments	Quarterly updates on spending, claimant/property profiles, and issues and knock on effects.	<p>Report to September meeting.</p> <p>Committee asked for more information in subsequent reports. Councillor Coulter to persue.</p>	Lead: Councillor Coulter.
Performance monitoring	Quarterly report on a set of Corporate and service measures chosen by the Committee.	<p>Councillors met and agreed 2 performance sets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny Committee • Housing Panel <p>Qtrly meetings scheduled.</p> <p>5/9/2013 meeting – clarification on LP106 requested.</p>	Councillors Campbell, Simmons, Coulter and Darke.
Council Tax exemption for	Two councillors to talk to officers	November meeting to take issues.	Lead: Councillor

students. Is this being applied consistently and managed.	about the process and report back to the committee if there is an issue to follow up on.		Simmons.
Fusion Leisure Contract	Leisure centre usage and the engagement in all leisure activities across the City with a particular focus on engagement of residents from our most deprived wards.	April meeting.	Lead: Councillor Coulter. Councillor Fry has expressed an interest in this item.
Community Safety	Issue to be decided on after consultation with the Board Member.	Discussion with Board Member at the October meeting	All Committee. Councillor Jones has expressed an interest in this issue.
The method by which the scale of new buildings and extensions is indicated in planning applications, in particular an evaluation of the agreed pilot scheme based on the practice in Swiss Cantons.	Evaluation of the pilot in City development.	Date check needed	Lead: Councillor Fry. Councillor Jones has expressed an interest in this issue.
Use of Social Media by the Council	Review proposals within the Public Engagement Strategy.	October Meeting alongside the Public Engagement Strategy	Lead: Councillor Brett.
Any item called from the	To consider and comment on issues	The following have been considered by	Lead: Councillor Mills.

<p>Forward Plan for pre decision scrutiny.</p>	<p>to be decided by the City Executive Board.</p>	<p>the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discretionary Housing Payments Scheme – Recommendations made to CEB. • End of year integrated report – Issues raised for inclusion in the scrutiny programme. • Corporate Debt Management Policy – No actions. • Appointment of the main contractor for the Affordable Homes Programme – No actions. • Youth Ambition Strategy – Recommendations made to CEB. • Low Emissions Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan – Recommendations made to CEB. • Riverside Land – Acquisition – September meeting (delayed to November meeting). • Customer Contact Strategy – September meeting – recommendations made to CEB on the 11th. September. • Oxford Fund – (item delayed indefinitely). 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants Programme Commissioning Review – September meeting (delayed to October meeting). • City Deal – September meeting (delayed to October meeting). • Public Engagement Strategy – October meeting (delayed to November meeting). • Oxpens Master Plan consultation outcome – November meeting. 	
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07 **Standing Panels**

Topic	Area(s) for focus	Progress	Nominated councillors
Housing – All strategic and landlord issues considered within the Scrutiny Function.	<p>Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation Policies and how we communicate, give advice and take account of feedback. • Decent Homes Standard – where do we go next in investment in our stock? • Regeneration on estates – what are our ambitions and how do we deliver and engage communities. <p>Items for pre decision scrutiny:</p>		<p>No substitutions allowed. Lead: Councillor Smith.</p> <p>Co-opted Member – Linda Hill Councillor Hollick, Sanders and McCready.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Strategy Action Plan periodic review – September meeting • Housing Strategy refresh – September meeting. • Long term affordable housing for homelessness prevention – September meeting. • Allocations review and changes to the Allocations Policy – September meeting. 		
Finance Panel – All finance issues considered within the Scrutiny Function.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly budget monitoring. • Medium Term Financial Strategy and budget review. • “Proper Body” for scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and Function. 		<p>No substitutions allowed. Lead: Councillor Simmons.</p> <p>Councillors Fry, Darke and Fooks.</p>

Review Panels in progress

Topic	Scope	Progress	Nominated councillors
Covered Market Strategy and Leasing Strategy.	Scope: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-scrutiny and engagement with the developing Covered 	The Group is currently observing the Covered Market Stakeholder engagement.	No substitutions allowed.

	<p>Market Strategy and Leasing Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent engagement with the Covered Market Traders Association. • Review of the leasing decision for the unit formerly occupied by Palm's Delicatessen. • Consideration of comparative data from similar markets. 	<p>Alongside this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face to face consultation with Market Traders has taken place. • Visits to 4 London markets and Bristol market have happened. • Interviews with Officers and Board Members has taken place. <p>Interim findings to the October Scrutiny Committee. Final report expected in November.</p> <p>Programmed to finish in November</p>	<p>Lead: Councillor Campbell.</p> <p>Councillors Fooks , Van Nooijen (resigned), Clarkson and Benjamin</p> <p>Councillor van Nooijen resigned from the Panel. Labour members asked if they wished to replace him.</p>
<p>Recycling Rates – Are our targets ambitious enough.</p>	<p>Scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider our current policies and their effects. • Review with service officers barriers to improvement alongside best practice and new initiatives. 	<p>The Group have identified a number of areas for potential improvement and are currently working with officers to explore these.</p> <p>The Group has agreed to focus its efforts around reward and penalty schemes taking in a broad range of suggestions.</p> <p>Data gathering is underway.</p>	<p>No substitutions allowed.</p> <p>Lead: Councillor Fry.</p> <p>Councillors Simmons and Jones</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information has been gathered on the incentives currently used by the Council and the effects of these. Information is being gathered from WRAP and other authorities on incentives and outcomes. <p>Programmed to finish no later than November.</p>	
<p>Enfranchisement and Empowerment.</p>	<p>Scope: As census data is published we begin to see the diverse and changing nature of Oxford and the number of people who failed to complete details without a least 1 reminder. Alongside this there are a number of properties with no one registered to vote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What effect does this have on our understanding of Oxford's communities? Do we understand why some households/communities choose not to engage? What is the extent of this democratic deficit? What does this mean for 	<p>Planning is underway for the Group to run 3 focus groups talking to the Somali, Pakistani and Polish communities to understand the extent of their knowledge of public services and issues they have with engagement. These will happen in September 2013.</p> <p>Programmed to finish in October.</p> <p>Focus groups delayed.</p>	<p>No substitutions allowed.</p> <p>Lead: Councillor Darke.</p> <p>Councillors Jones and O'Hara.</p>

	communities, services and funding?		
The effects and value of the City's investment in educational attainment at primary level.	<p>Scope: To partner with a participating school to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the on the ground effects of the KRM model. • Understand the effects for children of all ability types. • Hear and see how the school copes with the cultural and professional challenges. • See how school inspectors respond. • Understand the targets set by the school management team and the part KRM plays in this. <p>Latterly the group has also decided to look at absenteeism.</p>	<p>The Group has agreed continuing discussions with its partner school which will happen in July.</p> <p>Recent membership changes to the Group have slowed progress.</p> <p>Work with the school will continue for a third term.</p>	<p>No substitutions allowed.</p> <p>Lead: Not nominated</p> <p>Councillors Campbell, Jones, Coulter, Paule and Khan.</p>
Mutual Exchanges between Council Tenants.	<p>Scope: To consider the under occupancy in the Council's stock and the potential for mutual exchanges to support those tenants affected by the changes to benefits and in particular the "bedroom tax".</p>	<p>Interviews with tenants who are at various stages of the Mutual Exchange process have been completed.</p> <p>Interviews with scheme administrators have been completed.</p>	<p>No substitutions allowed.</p> <p>Housing Panel with Linda Hill (Lead) tenant.</p>

	<p>To consider what changes and support is needed to make mutual exchanges a more useful tool for tenants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview a range of tenants who have just registered to move. <p>Interview a range of tenants at the point of swap within the mutual exchange system.</p>	Observation of mutual exchange events is underway.	
Budget Review	<p>Scope: Review of the budget and Medium Term Financial Plan – focus to be agreed.</p>		Members of the Finance Standing Panel.

Potential Review Panels – to be taken when resources allow (no particular order)

Topic	Area(s) for focus	Nominated councillors
Tracking the experience of a few families affected by benefit changes to record the affects in a holistic way.	Initial scoping with Lead Councillor	Lead: Councillor Smith

Items Called in and Councillor Calls for Action

None

New suggestion from Councillors or Residents

None

Committee Agenda Schedules

Each agenda will have 2 standing items:

- Work programme and recommendation progress
- Forward Plan

Date	Agenda Item
4 th . June	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scrutiny operating arrangements. 2. Forward Plan. 3. Pre-scrutiny – Discretionary Housing Payments. 4. Pre-scrutiny – End of Year Integrated Report. 5. Pre-scrutiny – Corporate Deb Management Policy. 6. Pre-scrutiny – Appointment of Main Contractor for Affordable Homes Programme.
2 nd . July	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work programme selection and set up. 2. Fusion Contract End of Year Performance 2012 - 2013. 3. Pre-scrutiny – Emissions Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan. 4. Pre-scrutiny- Youth Ambition Strategy.
5 th . September	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performance Monitoring – Qtr. 1. 2. Discretionary Housing Payments – Monitoring Report. 3. Pre-scrutiny - Riverside Land(item delayed at CEB). 4. Pre-scrutiny -Customer Contact Strategy. 5. Pre-scrutiny -Oxfutures Fund (item delayed indefinitely) 6. Pre-scrutiny – City Deal (item delayed at CEB)) 7. Pre-scrutiny -Grants Programme Commissioning Review (item delayed at CEB).
1 st . October	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community Safety issues – Board Member. 2. Interim Covered Market – Panel report. 3. Pre-scrutiny – City Deal. 4. Pre-scrutiny – Review of the Community and Voluntary Organisations Grants Programme.
5 th . November	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performance Monitoring – Qtr. 2. 2. Pre-scrutiny - Oxpens Master Plan – consultation outcome. 3. Discretionary Housing Payments – Monitoring Report. 4. Pre-scrutiny - Public Engagement Strategy. 5. Pre-scrutiny – Riverside Land 6. Use of Social Media by the Council. 7. Student Council Tax Exemptions – issues. 8. Enfranchisement and Empowerment – Panel

	<p>report.</p> <p>9. Recycling – Panel report</p> <p>10. Final Covered Market Report.</p>
3 rd . December	1. Panel advise on Thames Water investment.
14 th . January	1. Public Involvement Strategy (consultation outcome).
4 th . February	<p>1. Discretionary Housing Payments – Monitoring Report.</p> <p>2. Performance Monitoring – Qtr. 3.</p>
4 th . March	1. Education Attainment Panel report.
1 st . April	1. Leisure centre usage and the engagement in all leisure activities across the City with a particular focus on engagement of residents from our most deprived wards.

Finance Standing Panel

Dates	Agenda Items
6 th . September 5.00pm.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quarter 1 spending against budget. 2. Treasury Management outturn 2012 – 2013. 3. Quarter 1 2013 – 2014 Treasury Management performance. 4. Panel work programme.
7 th . November 5.30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quarter 2 spending against budget. 2. Quarter 2 2013 – 2014 Treasury Management performance. 3. Budget review scope and timetable. 4. Contingencies detail 2008 to date. 5. Modelled effects of the agreed transfer of assets from the Housing Revenue Account to the General Fund.
6 th . February 2014 at 6.00pm.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quarter 3 spending against budget. 2. Quarter 3 Treasury Management performance. 3. Draft Treasury Management Strategy 2014 - 2015

Housing Standing Panel

Outline –issues still to be developed by Panel

The Scrutiny Committee has asked that this Panel also take issues from the Forward Plan related to the Housing theme. Addition dates have been reserved to allow this to happen if necessary, these are:

- 3rd. October.
- 5th December (used).
- 15th. January 2014.
- 6th. March 2014.
- 3rd. April 2014.

Dates	Agenda Items
3 rd . September	1. Housing Strategy Action Plan.

5.00pm.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Long term affordable housing for homelessness prevention. 3. Allocations review and changes to the Allocations Policy. 4. Performance monitoring – Housing Measures – Qtr. 1. 5. Allocation Policies and how we communicate, give advice and take account of feedback. 6. Panel work programme.
3 rd . October 5.00pm.	Provisional
4 th . November at 5.00pm.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performance monitoring – Housing Measures- Qtr. 2. Item to include a report back on performance against CS002 and CS005 2. Outcome from review of the Mutual Exchange process. 3. Estate Regeneration – Scope 4. Communications Strategy for the Allocations Scheme 5. Management arrangements – Temporary Accommodation? 6. Follow up on benefits performance indicators.
5 th . December at 5.00pm.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Housing Strategy refresh. 2. Management arrangements – Temporary Accommodation?
15 th . January 2014 at 5.00pm.	Provisional <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possible Asset Management Strategy – Oxford Standard
7 th . February at 5.00pm.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Performance monitoring – Housing Measures – Qtr. 3. 2. Possible Asset Management Strategy – Oxford Standard
6 th . March at 5.00pm.	Provisional
3 rd . April at 5.00pm.	Provisional

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