

Scrutiny Work Programme 2014 - 2015

This programme represents the work of Scrutiny, including panel work and Committee items. The work programme is divided under the following headings:

1. Standing Panels
2. Review Panels and Ad hoc Panels in progress
3. Potential Review Panels (to be established if and when resources allow)
4. Items for Scrutiny Committee meetings
5. Draft Scrutiny Committee agenda schedule
6. Items called in and Councillor calls for action
7. Items referred to Scrutiny by Council

1. Standing Panels

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Topic	Area(s) for focus	Nominated councillors (no substitutions allowed)
Finance Panel – All finance issues considered within the Scrutiny Function.	See appendix 1	Councillors Simmons (Chair), Darke, Fooks and Fry
Housing – All strategic and landlord issues considered within the Scrutiny Function.	See appendix 2	Councillors Hollick (Chair), Sanders, Smith and Wade Co-opted Member – Linda Hill

2. Review panels and ad hoc panels in progress


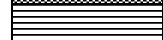

Topic	Scope	Progress	Next steps	Nominated councillors
Thames Water investment to improve flooding	To continue engagement with Thames Water Utilities (TWU) at a senior level to ensure delivery of the agreements reached.	Catchment study publically launched and a press statement issued in advance. Contact made with TWU to establish governance structure.	Panel briefing on study to be arranged. Governance structure meeting dates to be set.	Councillors Darke (Chair) Pressel, Thomas and Goddard
Tacking Inequality	To review how the City Council contributes to combatting harmful inequality in Oxford, and whether there is more that could reasonably be done.	A call for evidence has been issued. A document has been developed detailing the ways in which the City Council combats inequality and opportunities and gaps identified.	Further evidence gathering meetings scheduled for 9 & 26 February.	Councillor Coulter (Chair), Gant, Lloyd-Shogbesan and Thomas
Budget Review	Annual review of draft budget and medium term financial plan	Three Budget Review meetings in w/c 12 January.	Recommendations to be agreed on 21 Jan.	Finance Panel Members
Recycling rates	To review of recycling and waste data rates, and consider community incentives and other recycling initiatives.	Continuation of previous panel which reported in July 2014. Meeting held on 8 October to consider bid for incentive funding.	Panel to visit depot and consider waste and recycling on 16 February 2015	Councillor Fry (Chair), Simmons and Hayes
Supporting businesses in the city centre	1. What can the City Council can do to mitigate disruption to the city centre economy while major developments are taking place? How can communication be improved for lasting benefit to residents and visitors? 2. What scope does the City Council have to minimise the time shop units are left empty, and to improve the appearance of empty units?	The panel metwith the Town Centre manager todiscuss possible areas of focus on 7 January 2015.	Scope to be considered by Scrutiny Committee on 19 January.	Councillor Fry (Chair), Darke, Benjamin and Gotch

3. Potential Review Panels – to be established when resources allow

Topic	Area(s) for focus	Nominated councillors
Cycling	Scope to be determined. Panel to consider area(s) of focus which could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review cycling funding including City and County Council contributions. Explore progress against sought outcomes and value for money achieved. 	Councillors Wolff, Upton, Pressel and Hayes
Neighbourhood working	Scope to be determined. Could to consider how to address feedback provided to the City Council by the peer review group.	TBC

Indicative scrutiny review timeline 2014-2015 (does not include ad hoc review panels)

Review	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July
Budget Scrutiny	Scoping	Scoping	Scoping	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Reporting				
Inequalities		Scoping	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Reporting	Reporting		
Supporting businesses					Scoping	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Reporting	
Cycling							Scoping	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Evidence gathering and review	Reporting

	Scoping
	Evidence gathering and review
	Reporting

4. Items for Committee meetings (in no particular order)

Topic	Area(s) for focus	Lead and other Councillors
Discretionary Housing Payments	Quarterly updates on spending profiles within a framework agreed by the Committee.	Councillor Coulter
Performance monitoring	Quarterly report on a set of Corporate and service measures chosen by the Committee.	Councillors Altaf-Khan, Coulter, Darke & Simmons
Educational attainment investment	To consider the academic progress and key stage results at schools operating the KRM model compared to those not.	Councillors Altaf-Khan, & Hayes & Thomas
Fusion Lifestyle contract performance	Regular yearly item agreed again by the Committee to consider performance against contract conditions.	Councillor Simmons
Research on the effects of welfare reform	To consider research into the impact of welfare reforms in the City.	Councillor Coulter
Clean streets	To receive an update on the City Council's approach to keeping Oxford streets clean from graffiti, detritus, littering and waste.	
Living Wage	To review how the living wage is enforced through procurement contracts	
New controls over anti-social behaviour	To receive an update on the City Council's changing approach to anti-social behaviour.	
Low Carbon Oxford	To receive an update on the progress of this scheme and plans to progress the low carbon agenda in Oxford.	
Community and Neighbourhood services	To review aims, activities and outcomes; grant distribution; community centres and associations; volunteering; Neighbourhood plans; how better on-going engagement can be established with different communities.	
Activities for older residents and preventing isolation	To receive an update on services and activities for over 50s, with a focus on preventing isolation.	
Individual voter registration	To receive an update on changes to electoral registration and to monitor how the City Council is maximising registration.	
Taxi Licencing	To review rules and processes; to understand driver issues.	
Forward Plan items	To consider issues to be decided by the City Executive Board.	

5. Draft Scrutiny Committee Agenda Schedule

Date (all 6pm, St. Aldate's Room unless stated)	Agenda Item	Lead Member; Officer(s)
19 January 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Growth Board Work Programme 2. Educational Attainment 3. New Council controls over anti-social behaviour 4. Review Panel scope: Supporting businesses in the city centre 	<p>Cllr Price; Paul Staines</p> <p>Jonathon Solity & Helen Wall (KRM), Cllr Pat Kennedy; Tim Sadler</p> <p>Richard Adams</p> <p>Cllr James Fry</p>
3 February 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community and Neighbourhood services 2. Activities for older residents and preventing isolation 3. Cycle City 4. Grant Allocations to Community and Voluntary Organisations 2015/2016 (pre-scrutiny) 5. The Culture Strategy 2015-18 (pre-scrutiny) 6. Purchase of St. Aldate's Chambers (pre-scrutiny) 7. Performance monitoring – quarter 3 	<p>Ian Brooke</p> <p>Luke Nipen, Vicki Galvin</p> <p>Jo Colwell</p> <p>Julia Tomkins</p> <p>Ceri Gordon</p> <p>Nick Twigg</p>
2 March 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Living Wage 2. Consultation and Engagement 	<p>Simon Howick</p> <p>Sadie Paige</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Research into the local impact of Welfare Reform 4. Discretionary Housing Payments (pre-scrutiny) 5. Oxfutures programme (pre-scrutiny) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Wilding Paul Wilding Jo Colwell
23 March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low Carbon Oxford 2. Inequalities Panel report (TBC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Copley Cllr Coulter
5 May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recycling rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geoff Corps

6. Items called in and Councillor calls for action

None

7. Items referred to Scrutiny by Council

None

Appendix 1 - Finance Panel work programme 2014-15

Items for Finance Panel meetings

Suggested Topic	Suggested approach / area(s) for focus
Budget Scrutiny	Review of the Council's medium term financial strategy.
Budget monitoring	Regular monitoring of projected budget outturns through the year.
Treasury Management	Scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and regular monitoring of Treasury performance.
Capital process	To receive an update on the implementation of the Capital Gateway process.
Maximising European funding	To consider how the City Council can maximise funding opportunities; invite local MEPs to contribute to the discussion.
Municipal bonds	To receive an update on the establishment of a municipal bonds agency.
Local financing	To consider whether there is a case for the City Council to generating capital financing locally through bonds or crowd-funding.
Ethical investment	To monitor the City Council's approach to implementing an ethical investment policy.
Council tax exemptions	To receive an update on the financial implications of different types of exemptions.

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Draft Finance Panel agenda schedule

Date and room (all 5.30pm, St. Aldate's Room)	Agenda Item	Lead Member; Officer(s)
21 January 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capital programme process review update 2. Banking Services Provider (confidential) 3. Budget Scrutiny – recommendation areas agreed 	David Edwards, Stephen Clarke, Nigel Kennedy Nigel Kennedy Cllr Simmons

5 February 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. European funding 2. Treasury Management Strategy 15/16 (pre-scrutiny) 3. Creation of a Panel to Manage the Council's Investment Portfolio (pre-scrutiny) 4. Budget Review Report 	<p>Anneliese Dodds MEP</p> <p>Anna Winship</p> <p>Jane Winfield</p> <p>Cllr Simmons</p>
25 March 2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Local Financing 2. Budget monitoring – quarter 3 3. Capital Strategy (pre-scrutiny) 	<p>TBC</p> <p>Nigel Kennedy</p> <p>Nigel Kennedy</p>

Meetings closed to the public:

Date and room (all 5.30pm)	Agenda Item	Lead Member; Officer(s)
12 January 2015, Plowman Room	1. Budget Scrutiny – Community Services	Cllr Turner; Tim Sadler
13 January 2015, Plowman Room	1. Budget Scrutiny – Organisational Development and Corporate Services	Cllr Turner; Peter Sloman, Jackie Yates
14 January 2015, Plowman Room	1. Budget Scrutiny – City Regeneration and Housing	Cllrs Turner & Seamons; David Edwards, Stephen Clarke
3 February 2015, St. Aldate's Room	1. Review of published budget report	Nigel Kennedy

Appendix 2 - Housing Panel work programme 2014-15

Items for Housing Panel meetings

Suggested Topic	Suggested approach / area(s) for focus
Performance monitoring	Regular monitoring of performance measures for Estates Regeneration, Housing Supply and Welfare Reform and Housing Crisis.
Housing Strategy	Review headline priorities and sought outcomes in Housing Strategy at draft stage, and the action plan post-consultation.
Increasing the provision of affordable housing	Monitoring of performance measures; scrutiny of the Housing Business Plan and the Housing Strategy; consider alternative options e.g. pre-fabs and 'pods'; possible review topic.
Homelessness	Monitoring of performance measures; scrutiny of the Housing Business Plan and Housing Strategy; pre-scrutiny of homelessness grant allocations; possible review topics.
Rent arrears	Monitoring of performance measures; bi-annual update reports.
STAR survey results	Monitoring of results.
Tackling under-occupancy	Report on efforts to tackle under-occupancy; consider in rent arrears reports.
Oxford Standard	To receive a progress update on the delivery of the Oxford Standard through the Asset Management Strategy and Action Plan, including an update on work to improve thermal efficiency in the Council's housing stock.
Private sector licencing	Update report on the scheme; consider views of landlords and PRS tenants.
Unlawful dwellings	A report on the City Council's approach to tackling illegal dwellings e.g. beds in sheds, given that funding ends in April 2015.
Repairs exemptions policy	To scrutinise proposed changes to the current policy.
De-designation of 40+ accommodation	Update report on the final phase of de-designating 40+ accommodation (expected in April 15).
Sheltered Housing	To contribute to and monitor the customer profiling survey of residents in sheltered accommodation and how this data should inform future provision.
Fuel Poverty	To receive an update on the City Council's approach to the issue of Fuel Poverty. Commission/review research; consider during other items; possible review topic.
Supporting people	Verbal updates on the joint commissioning of housing support services.

Draft Housing Panel Agenda Schedules

Date, room and time	Agenda Item	Lead Officer(s)
22 January 2015, Plowman Room, 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Star Survey Results 2. Fuel Poverty 3. Aids and Adaptions Policy (pre-scrutiny) 	Gary Parsons Deborah Haynes& Paul Wilding Bill Graves
4 February 2015, St Aldate's Room, 5.30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unlawful dwellings 2. Tackling under-occupancy 3. Housing Strategy 2015-2018 (pre-scrutiny) 	Ian Wright Bill Graves Gary Parsons
24 March 2015, Judges Room, 5pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non-statutory homelessness services 2. De-designation review year 4 	ShaiburRahman Tom Porter

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Meetings closed to the public:

Date, room and time	Agenda Item	Lead Member; Officer(s)
15 January 2015, Plowman Room, 5.30pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget Scrutiny - Housing 	Cllrs Turner &Seamons; Stephen Clarke