

Agenda



Listening Learning Leading

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A MEETING OF THE

Scrutiny Committee

WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER 2012 AT 6.00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL
OFFICES

Members of the Committee:

Mrs Eleanor Hards (Chairman)

Ms Joan Bland (Vice-
Chairman)

Mrs Celia Collett, MBE

Mr Steve Connel

Mr John Cotton

Ms Kristina Crabbe

Mrs Pat Dawe

Mr Leo Docherty

Mr Will Hall

Mr Paul Harrison

Mr Stephen Harrod

Ms Elizabeth Hodgkin

Mr David Turner

Substitutes

Mr Roger Bell

Mr Felix Bloomfield

Mr David Bretherton

Mr Bernard Cooper

Mr Philip Cross

Mrs Margaret Davies

Mr Mark Gray

Mr Tony Harbour

Mr Marcus Harris

Mr Marc Hiles

Ms Lynn Lloyd

Mrs Ann Midwinter

Ms Anne Purse

Mr Robert Simister

Miss Rachel Wallis

Mr Michael Welply

Mrs Jennifer Wood

If you would like a copy of these papers in large print, Braille or audio cassette or have any other special requirements (such as access facilities) please contact the officer named on this agenda. Please give as much notice as possible before the meeting

- 1 **Apologies**
- 2 **Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest**
- 3 **Minutes, 30 October 2012**

Recommendations from Cabinet to Council

4 **Council tax reduction scheme**

Report of the Head of Finance (attached).

Purpose: The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the report to Cabinet and Council, and make comments to Council about the recommendations proposed by Cabinet on Thursday 6 December.

The purpose of this report is to enable the council to adopt and implement a new Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the financial year 2013/14.

Cabinet will consider this report on Thursday 6 December and make recommendations to be considered by Council on Thursday 13 December.

5 **Council tax exemptions and discounts**

Report of the Head of Finance (attached).

Purpose: The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the report to Cabinet and Council, and make comments to Council about the recommendations proposed by Cabinet on Thursday 6 December.

The purpose of this report is to:

- enable the council to set the level of council tax discount to be applied to second homes, unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings, and dwellings undergoing or requiring structural repair.
- enable the council to set the level of premium to be applied to long-term empty dwellings.

Cabinet will consider this report on Thursday 6 December and make recommendations to be considered by Council on Thursday 13 December.

Following publication of the report in the Cabinet meeting papers, revised recommendations have been proposed by officers as shown below:

Recommendation to Cabinet:

That the Council be recommended:

That in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended by the Local Government Finance Act 2012) and the Council Tax

(Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (England) Regulations 2003 (as amended):

- (i) from 1 April 2013 the council tax discount to be applied on second homes (Classes A and B in the Regulations) be reduced from ten per cent to nil;
- (ii) from 1 April 2013 (subject to (iii) below) the council tax discount to be applied on unoccupied and unfurnished dwellings (Class C in the Regulations) be 25 per cent for up to six months and zero per cent thereafter ;
- (iii) from 1 April 2013 where the unoccupied and unfurnished dwelling is requiring or undergoing structural repair (Class D in the Regulations) the discount to be applied be 50 per cent for up to 12 months and zero per cent thereafter;
- (iv) from 1 April 2013 a premium of 50 per cent (on top of the 100 per cent currently payable) be applied to long term empty dwellings where they have been unoccupied and unfurnished continuously for at least two years (except those falling within Classes E and F in the Regulations where no premium will apply).

To be considered by the Scrutiny Committee

6 Board report - a graphical summary of the councils' performance to the end of October 2012

Board report for October 2012 (**attached**).

Purpose: to discuss the council's performance and make any recommendations for improvement.

If committee members have specific questions, these should be submitted to democratic services in advance.

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic Services