

Agenda



Listening Learning Leading

Contact Officer: Susan Harbour, Democratic Services Team Leader

Tel: 01235 422525

E-mail: susan.harbour@southoxon.gov.uk

Date: 15 January 2018

Website: www.southoxon.gov.uk

A MEETING OF THE

Scrutiny Committee

WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2018 AT 6.30 PM

MEETING ROOM 1, 135 EASTERN AVENUE, MILTON PARK, MILTON, OX14 4SB

Members of the Committee:

Richard Pullen (Chairman)

John Walsh (Vice-Chairman)
Steve Connel
Anthony Dearlove

Elaine Hornsby
Caroline Newton
Ian Snowdon

David Turner
Ian White

Substitutes

*Paul Harrison
Sue Lawson
Toby Newman
Pat Dawe*

*Stefan Gawrysiak
Charles Bailey
David Dodds
Will Hall*

*Lorraine Hillier
Mocky Khan*

Alternative formats of this publication are available on request. These include large print, Braille, audio, email and easy read. For this or 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.

Venue and Directions

1 Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence and the attendance of substitute members.

2 Minutes (Pages 7 - 10)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the Scrutiny Committee minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2017 (attached).

3 Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

4 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

To receive notification of any matters which the chairman determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the chairman.

5 Public participation

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public that have registered to speak.

6 Work schedule and dates for all South and Vale scrutiny meetings (Pages 11 - 14)

To review the attached scrutiny work schedule. Please note, although the dates are confirmed, the items under consideration are subject to being withdrawn, added to or rearranged without further notice.

REPORTS AND ISSUES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 Ask The Leader

Committee members, and other registered speakers, able to ask the Council Leader any questions relating to the business of the district.

8 Exclusion of the public

If questions are asked which fall into the categories below, they will need to be considered in a closed session.

To consider whether to exclude members of the press and public from the meeting for the following item of business under Part 1 of Schedule 12A Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 and as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 on the grounds that:

- (i) it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1-7 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and
- (ii) the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**EXEMPT INFORMATION UNDER 100A(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT
1972**

MARGARET REED

Head of Legal and Democratic Services

This page is intentionally left blank

Minutes



Listening Learning Leading

OF A MEETING OF THE

Scrutiny Committee

HELD ON TUESDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 6.30 PM

MEETING ROOM 1, 135 EASTERN AVENUE, MILTON PARK, MILTON,
OX14 4SB

Present:

Richard Pullen (Chairman)

John Walsh, Caroline Newton, Ian Snowdon, David Turner, Ian White and Paul Harrison (as substitute for Elaine Hornsby)

Apologies:

Steve Connel, Anthony Dearlove and Elaine Hornsby tendered apologies.

Officers:

Adrian Duffield, Ben Duffy, Holly Jones, Ron Schrieber, Mark Stone and Sally Truman

Also present:

Councillors John Cotton, Jane Murphy and Robert Simister

21 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 13 and 26 September 2017 were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

22 Declarations of interest

None.

23 Urgent business and chairman's announcements

None.

24 Public participation

None.

25 Corporate delivery plan - progress report

The committee considered the report of the head of corporate services on the corporate delivery plan and progress made against actions in the plan. The committee reviewed the progress made to date with a view to providing feedback to Cabinet who would consider the report in February 2018.

Sally Truman, policy, partnerships and engagement manager, introduced this item. Also present to answer questions were Councillors John Cotton, Leader of the Council and Jane Murphy, Deputy Leader and Mark Stone, acting chief executive.

In response to members' questions, the committee was informed that:

- Ref.1: the time line for completing this target would be affected if the proposed housing and growth deal for Oxfordshire, announced in the recent budget, were to be successful.
- Ref 9: the Leader and acting chief executive outlined the actions being taken by the Council to support the specific technologies and specialisms based at Howbery Park, Culham and elsewhere.
- Ref 40: the Leader updated the committee on negotiations with the landowner at Berinsfield.
- Ref 60: the Leader reported that, although the recycling rate had levelled out, it remained one of the highest in the country.
- Ref 68: the Leader reported that work with Sustrans had not yet begun as it was subject to funding being obtained.
- Ref 76: the policy and partnerships manager reported that a volunteering development officer had recently been appointed.
- Ref 83: the policy and partnerships manager reported that it was difficult to measure the effectiveness of the public engagement strategy. One indicator was the council's reputation with residents as revealed in the results of the biennial residents' survey.

In addition, the committee requested that the following information be circulated:

- The number of small and medium enterprises in South Oxfordshire and targets for action to promote the South Oxfordshire business brand (Ref 5).
- The actions that can be taken to encourage mobile phone providers to improve reception (Ref 15).
- Appeal decisions in the Green Belt, AONBs and SSSIs (Ref 43).
- Clarification on timescales in relation to a dedicated website page explaining opportunities for public participation at council meetings has been created (Ref 89).

The committee noted that the next progress report was scheduled for June 2018.

RESOLVED: to note progress against actions in the Corporate Delivery Plan and ask the Cabinet to take the committee's views into account.

26 Housing delivery update

The committee considered the report of the head of planning services which detailed the council's housing delivery performance since 2011, looking at total completions, affordable housing and delivery of the Local Plan 2011 and Core Strategy strategic housing sites.

The report also explored how the Joint Housing Delivery Strategy (JHDS) complimented the emerging Local Plan 2011-2033 and how it would contribute to the district's build rate. In addition, it provided a brief explanation of the five-year housing land supply (FYHLS) and the contents and timescale for production of the Authority Monitoring report (AMR).

Councillor John Cotton, Leader and Cabinet member for strategic policy (including local plan) introduced this item. Also present to answer questions were Adrian Duffield, head of planning services, Holly Jones, planning policy manager, and Ben Duffy, monitoring officer (planning policy).

In response to members' questions, the committee was informed that:

- Although the lack of progress on allocated sites such as Ladygrove East, was a cause for concern, it was the landowner's decision if and when to submit a planning application. Compulsory purchase was a lengthy and expensive process which was unlikely to succeed.
- The average annual delivery rate of affordable housing from eligible developments since 2011 was 36.4%. Whilst this figure was slightly below the council's 40% target, it was significantly higher than many comparable planning authorities.
- The council would be able to demonstrate a FYHLS when the Local Plan was adopted and possibly earlier.

With regard to the delivery of affordable housing, the committee requested that projected figures for delivery in future years be circulated.

RESOLVED: to note the report and ask Cabinet members to take the committee's views into account.

27 Work schedule and dates for all South and Vale scrutiny meetings

The work schedule had been circulated and was noted.

The democratic services officer reported that, since the publication of the work schedule, the co-chairmen had agreed to the cancellation of the Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting scheduled for 5 December.

The committee agreed that a report on S106 agreements should be added to its work programme.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Chairman

Date

This page is intentionally left blank

Schedule for Scrutiny Committees 2017/18

(further items to be added to schedule as required)

Meeting date	Council	Agenda items	Purpose of Report	Cabinet members	Report Author	Head of Service	Strategic Lead
Thurs 25 Jan	Vale	"Ask the Leader"	The Leader to answer members' and the public's questions.	Matthew Barber			Adrianna Partridge
		Partnership grants	To consider the criteria for grant funding organisations	Charlotte Dickson	Jayne Bolton	Adrianna Partridge	
Tues 6 Feb	South	Review of Final Draft Budget	To consider and comment on the draft budget prior to its consideration by Council	Jane Murphy	William Jacobs	William Jacobs	William Jacobs
Thurs 8 Feb	Vale	Review of Final Draft Budget	To consider and comment on the draft budget prior to its consideration by Council	Robert Sharp	William Jacobs	William Jacobs	
		Houses that people can afford	To consider what is being done/could be done to increase the number of houses for rent or sale that are truly affordable to the average working family or person	Elaine Ware	Gerry Brough/ Helen Novelle	Gerry Brough	
Tues 6 March	Joint	Community Safety Partnership Annual Report	To update the committee on the progress that the South and Vale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) is making to	Elizabeth Gillespie/Elaine Ware	Shona Ware	Margaret Reed	Adrianna Partridge

		Spend on commuted housing sums	reduce crime and the fear of crime To receive an annual report on the status of commuted sum payments received and expenditure to date, including measurable Key Performance Indicators.	Lynn Lloyd/ Elaine Ware	Helen Novelle	Gerry Brough	
		Review of Communications Strategy	To monitor the effects of the Joint Communications Strategy	John Cotton/Ed Blagrove	Andy Roberts/Jayne Bolton	Adrianna Partridge	
Thurs 8 March (change of date from 27 March)	South	Berinsfield Redevelopment Project			Jon Dobson/ Charlotte Culver	Gerry Brough	
Thurs 29 March	Vale						
Tues 29 May	South	S106 Agreements	To consider the annual monitoring report showing income/expenditure and balances	Felix Bloomfield	Cathie Scotting/Paula Fox	Adrian Duffield	
Thurs 31 May	Vale						

Potential items for future meetings (date to be determined):

For Joint Scrutiny

- Unitary process
- Science Vale Marketing campaign (first meeting of 2018/19 Municipal year) To receive an annual monitoring report on the success of the campaign (Mike Murray/ Robert Simister, Joy Kellaway, Gerry Brough
- New Housing Allocations Policy

For Vale Scrutiny

- Authority Monitoring Report 2017-18 (provisionally January 2019)

For South Scrutiny

- CIL Spending Strategy

Items for future South Scrutiny Committee (date to be determined):

- Planning appeals

The Cabinet work programmes can be accessed via the following links:

South

<http://democratic.southoxon.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=121&RD=0>

Vale

<http://democratic.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=507&RD=0>

Meeting Start times: Joint: 6:30; South: 6:30; Vale: 7.00;

Scrutiny Work Item Preparation

Members are invited to consider the following headings for future agenda items

Item name

Date of report to Committee

What do we want to know about? What topics should the report provider include in their report to Scrutiny?

Who to invite to Committee? (Cabinet member(s) and Head(s) of Service). Anyone from outside agencies?

This page is intentionally left blank