

Date: 12 August 2009

TO: All Members of the Scrutiny
Committee
FOR ATTENDANCE

TO: All Other Members of the Council
FOR INFORMATION

Dear Sir/Madam

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** to be held in the **GUILDHALL, ABINGDON** on **THURSDAY, 20TH AUGUST, 2009** at **6.00 PM**.

Yours faithfully



Margaret Reed
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Members are reminded of the provisions contained in the Code of Conduct adopted on 30 September 2007 and Standing Order 34 regarding the declaration of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

A G E N D A

Open to the Public including the Press

A large print version of this agenda is available. Any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement. Contact Steve Culliford, Democratic Services Officer, on telephone number (01235) 540307.

Map and Vision

(Page 5)

A map showing the location of the venue for this meeting is attached.

The Council's Vision is to build and safeguard a fair, open and compassionate community.

1. **Election of a Chairman**

To elect a Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

The Constitution states that the Scrutiny Committee shall normally be chaired by a Councillor who is not a member of the largest political group, unless there is no such person serving on the Committee.

2. **Notification of Substitutes and Apologies for Absence**

To record the attendance of Substitute Members, if any, who have been authorised to attend in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 17(1), with notification having been given to the proper Officer before the start of the meeting and to receive apologies for absence.

3. **Minutes**

To adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 23 April 2009.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

To receive any declarations of Personal or Personal and Prejudicial Interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

In accordance with Part 2 of the Local Code of Conduct and the provisions of Standing Order 34, any Member with a personal interest must disclose the existence and nature of that interest to the meeting prior to the matter being debated. Where that personal interest is also a prejudicial interest, then the Member must withdraw from the room in which the meeting is being held and not seek improperly to influence any decision about the matter unless he/she has obtained a dispensation from the Standards Committee.

5. **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.

6. **Statements and Petitions from the Public Under Standing Order 32**

Any statements and/or petitions from the public under Standing Order 32 will be made or presented at the meeting.

7. **Questions from the Public Under Standing Order 32**

Any questions from members of the public under Standing Order 32 will be asked at the meeting.

8. **Scrutiny Work Programme**

(Pages 6 - 15)

To consider the attached Scrutiny Work Programme and to review the list of Scrutiny Members allocated to each service area.

Members may recall that in December 2008 the responsibility for investigating significant issues in each service area half year report was divided amongst the Committee's membership. That list was:

- Contracts and Procurement – Waste: Councillor Yvonne Constance
- Contracts and Procurement – Leisure: Councillor Julia Reynolds
- Environmental Health: Councillor Laurel Symons
- Commercial Services: Councillor Joyce Hutchinson
- Planning & Community Strategy: Councillor Andrew Crawford and Councillor Jim Halliday
- Organisational Development – Contact Services & Communications: Councillor Tim Smith
- Organisational Development – Organisational Change: Councillor Reg Waite
- Organisational Development – HR: Councillor Chris Wise
- Democratic Services: Councillor Jenny Shepherd
- Legal Services: Councillor Jim Halliday
- Housing & Community Strategy: Councillor Melinda Tilley
- Finance: Councillor Matthew Barber

This no longer aligns directly with the restructured service areas, which are as set out in the attached diagram. The Committee is asked to review how it wishes to divide this responsibility.

Recommendation

- (a) *that the Scrutiny Work Programme be adopted but be reviewed at each Committee meeting; and*
- (b) *that the Committee confirms or amends the list of Scrutiny Committee Members to allocate to each service area.*

9. **Implications of the Recession – Housing and the Financial Crisis**

(Pages 16 - 20)

To receive and consider report 38/09 of the Head of Health and Housing.

10. **Review the Activity of the Executive**

To review the activity of the Executive and consider any references to this Committee. Members are requested to bring with them to this meeting the agenda and unconfirmed minutes of the Executive meeting held on 7 August 2009.

11. Corporate Governance Q4 2008/09

(Pages 21 - 37)

To receive and consider report 31/09 of the Head of Corporate Strategy. This report was also considered by the Executive on 7 August 2009.

12. Revenue Budget Outturn 2008/09

(Pages 38 - 50)

To receive and consider report 33/09 of the Head of Finance.

This report was also considered by the Executive on 7 August 2009. Executive Members requested that the Scrutiny Committee was provided with a revised Appendix B, containing clearer reasons for variances. This amended Appendix B will be distributed in due course.

Exempt Information Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

None