

Scrutiny Committee Agenda



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A meeting of the
Scrutiny Committee
will be held on Thursday 23 June 2011
at 6pm
Abbey House, Abingdon

Members of the Committee:

Councillors

Jim Halliday (Chair)
Melinda Tilley (Vice-Chairman)
Eric Batts
Andrew Crawford
Jane Crossley
Tony de Vere

Charlotte Dickson
Jason Fiddaman
Bill Jones
Sandy Lovatt
Julie Mayhew-Archer
Fiona Roper

A large print version of this agenda is available. In addition any background papers referred to may be inspected by prior arrangement.

Please note that this meeting will be held in a wheelchair accessible venue. If you would like to attend and have any special access requirements, please let the Democratic Services Officers know beforehand and they will do their very best to meet your requirements.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Reed", written in a cursive style.

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.

Agenda

Open to the Public including the Press

Map and vision

(Page 6)

A map showing the location of the venue for this meeting is attached. A link to information about nearby car parking is http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/transport/car_parking/default.asp

The council's vision is to build and safeguard a fair, open and compassionate community.

1. Chair and Vice-Chairman

To note that at the annual Council meeting held on 18 May 2011, Councillors Jim Halliday and Melinda Tilley were elected as Chair and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Scrutiny Committee for the 2011/12 municipal year.

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 22 February 2011 (previously published).

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.

5. Urgent business and chairman's announcements

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

6. Statements, petitions and questions from the public relating to matters affecting the Scrutiny Committee

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

7. Terms of reference

To note the committee's terms of reference:

- (1) review and scrutinise the decisions made by, and performance of, the Cabinet, committees of the Council, directors and assistant directors both in relation to individual decisions and over a period of time;
- (2) review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- (3) question members of the Cabinet, committees of the Council, directors and assistant directors as required, about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- (4) test the rigour and process of reviews (including Best Value Reviews) of council services and make recommendations to the Executive, the appropriate committee or the Council on the outcomes;
- (5) make recommendations to the Cabinet, a committee of the Council or the Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- (6) exercise the right to call in for reconsideration decisions made but not yet implemented by the Cabinet or any other body, member or director or assistant director;
- (7) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the committee and local people about their activities and performance; and
- (8) question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

The committee may exercise overall responsibility for the finances made available to them and can request reports from directors and assistant directors on issues affecting their work.

The committees must report at least annually to full Council on their work and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended work programmes having regard to the overall resources made available to the committee by the Council.

The committees will conduct proceedings in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of the council's Constitution.

8. Review of recycling and waste collection over Christmas and New Year 2010/11

(Pages 7 - 23)

To consider the attached paper regarding recycling and waste collection over Christmas and New Year 2010/11.

9. Grounds maintenance contract monitoring

(Pages 24 - 33)

To consider report 4/11 of the head of corporate strategy.

The committee is asked to consider whether:

- to accept the report, or
- to require the client officer and contractor to attend a future meeting of the committee to answer questions.

10. Leisure contract monitoring

(Pages 34 - 48)

To consider report 5/11 of the head of economy, leisure and property.

The committee is asked to consider whether:

- to accept the report, or
- to require the client officer and contractor to attend a future meeting of the committee to answer questions.

11. Scrutiny work programme

(Pages 49 - 51)

Each year the committee forms a work programme setting out the issues for scrutiny. This year, the committee is asked to attend an event on Thursday 21 July to talk to the council's managers about services. At the end of the event, councillors will be asked to indicate which areas should be scrutinised. From this, the committee can form its work programme. To assist, a draft is attached to this agenda.

12. Election review

(Pages 52 - 54)

Councillors are asked to note that David Buckle, Returning Officer, has commissioned an independent review of the way in which the recent local elections and Alternative Vote referendum were conducted in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse. Part of the review will examine the apparent higher than usual non-delivery of postal votes. The terms of reference of the review are attached.

Mr Tim Revell has been appointed to carry out the review. He was chosen from a short list of consultants provided by Solace Enterprises having worked in local government at a senior level for over 15 years with extensive experience of running a variety of elections in London boroughs and Wiltshire. He aims to complete his review by early July and report to the two councils' scrutiny committees at a joint meeting in July. The report will be published on both websites once it is available.

13. Exclusion of the public, including the press

The chair to move that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the remainder of the meeting to prevent the disclosure to them of exempt information, as defined in Section 100(I) and Part 1 of Schedule 12A, as amended, to the Act when the following items are considered:

Leisure contract monitoring - appendix

(Category 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information.)

Exempt information under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972

14. Leisure contract monitoring - appendix

(Page 55)

To note the confidential appendix to the leisure contract monitoring report.