

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: Tuesday 31 January 2012
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA

Membership

Councillor Kieron Mallon (Chairman)	Councillor Lynn Pratt (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Ann Bonner	Councillor Tim Emptage
Councillor Chris Heath	Councillor Alastair Milne Home
Councillor Neil Prestidge	Councillor Leslie F Sibley
Councillor Daniel Sames	Councillor Trevor Stevens
Councillor Lawrie Stratford	Councillor Rose Stratford

Substitutes

Councillor Andrew Beere	Councillor Patrick Cartledge
Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE	Councillor Simon Holland
Councillor David Hughes	Councillor George Parish
Councillor Alaric Rose	Councillor Douglas Williamson

AGENDA

Overview and Scrutiny Members should not normally be subject to the party whip. Where a member is subject to a party whip they must declare this at the beginning of the meeting and it should be recorded in the minutes.

- 1. Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

3. Urgent Business

The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

4. Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on .

5. The Council's Approach to Empty Homes (Pages 5 - 12)

Report of Head of Regeneration and Housing

Summary

To provide an update on the steps being taken to bring empty homes into use, outline the strategic approach to empty homes that it is intended should form part of the new Housing Strategy now in preparation, and set enforcement powers in this wider context.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the actions being undertaken to address empty homes issues.
2. Support the principles set out in this report as the basis for the Council's approach to empty homes.
3. Support the proposal that Head of Regeneration and Housing, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing, should be responsible for considering the business case for intervention to return specific empty properties to use.

6. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2011- 2012 (Pages 13 - 20)

Report of Head of Law and Governance

Summary

To update the Committee on the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2011/12.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Note any items of interest in the current version of the Forward Plan (February – May 2012) and consider whether to include them on the work programme for 2011/12.

- (2) Note the current Overview and Scrutiny element of the work programme for 2011/12 as set out at Appendix 1.
- (3) Determine the agenda items for the 13 March 2012 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members Room at the end of the meeting.

Information about this Meeting

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence should be notified to democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or 01295 221583 prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item. The definition of personal and prejudicial interests is set out in the constitution. The Democratic Support Officer will have a copy available for inspection at all meetings.

Personal Interest: Members must declare the interest but may stay in the room, debate and vote on the issue.

Prejudicial Interest: Member must withdraw from the meeting room and should inform the Chairman accordingly.

With the exception of the some very specific circumstances, a Member with a personal interest also has a prejudicial interest if it is one which a Member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest.

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Evacuation Procedure

When the continuous alarm sounds you must evacuate the building by the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the car park as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

Access to Meetings

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

Please contact Catherine Phythian, Law and Governance
catherine.phythian@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk, 01295 221583

Sue Smith
Chief Executive

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