

**Committee:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**Date:** Tuesday 12 March 2013  
**Time:** 6.30 pm  
**Venue:** Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, OX15 4AA

### **Membership**

<b>Councillor Ann Bonner (Chairman)</b>	<b>Councillor Daniel Sames (Vice-Chairman)</b>
<b>Councillor Colin Clarke</b>	<b>Councillor Tim Emptage</b>
<b>Councillor Chris Heath</b>	<b>Councillor Melanie Magee</b>
<b>Councillor Kieron Mallon</b>	<b>Councillor Alastair Milne Home</b>
<b>Councillor Jon O'Neill</b>	<b>Councillor Nigel Randall</b>
<b>Councillor Leslie F Sibley</b>	<b>Councillor Lawrie Stratford</b>

### **Substitutes**

<b>Councillor Andrew Beere</b>	<b>Councillor Patrick Cartledge</b>
<b>Councillor Timothy Hallchurch MBE</b>	<b>Councillor Lynn Pratt</b>
<b>Councillor Alaric Rose</b>	<b>Councillor Rose Stratford</b>
<b>Councillor Douglas Williamson</b>	<b>Councillor Sean Woodcock</b>

## **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 9 October 2012 .

### 5. **Update on Empty Homes** (Pages 5 - 14)

Report of the Head of Regeneration and Housing.

#### **Summary**

This item was retained on the work programme at the request of Committee Members to ensure regular review. To provide an update on the empty homes situation in the district, the steps being taken to bring empty homes and other empty property back into use and the extent of progress made since 31 January 2012, when the Committee last considered these matters.

#### **Recommendation**

The meeting is recommended to consider:

- (1) Noting the actions being undertaken to address empty homes issues

### 6. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

The following item contains exempt information as defined in the following paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972.

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

Members are reminded that whilst the following item has been marked as exempt, it is for the meeting to decide whether or not to consider each of them in private or in public. In making the decision, members should balance the interests of individuals or the Council itself in having access to the information. In considering their discretion members should also be mindful of the advice of Council Officers.

Should Members decide not to make a decision in public, they are recommended to pass the following recommendation:

“That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.”

7. **Update on Empty Homes - restricted appendix** (Pages 15 - 16)

8. **Re-admittance of public and press**

The Committee is requested to resolve:

“That the press and public be readmitted to the meeting.”

9. **Housing Strategy** (Pages 17 - 76)

In April 2012 the Executive approved Cherwell’s 2012 - 2017 Housing Strategy (attached for information) and delegated authority to the Head of Regeneration and Housing, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing to produce an annual delivery plan for each year of the strategy that will prioritise actions in line with resources and opportunities.

The Committee will receive briefing on the Housing Strategy Annual Delivery Plan by the Strategic Housing Officer.

10. **Enforcement Service Plan - Feedback from Member Briefing**

To receive an overview of the Service Plan process from the Corporate Performance Manager, and consider feedback and issues arising from the Enforcement Service Plan Member Briefing held on 17 January 2013.

11. **Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2012/13** (Pages 77 - 88)

Report of Head of Law and Governance

**Summary**

This report presents the Overview and Scrutiny work programme 2012/13 for consideration.

**Recommendations**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended:

- (1) To consider the Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme 2012/13 as set out at Appendix 1 of the attached report.
- (2) To note any items of interest in the Executive Work programme and consider whether to include them on the work programme 2012/13.
- (3) To consider if there are any other items Members would like to include on the work programme.

**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@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk) or 01327 322365 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.

### **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 Dave Parry, Democratic and Elections [dave.parry@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:dave.parry@cherwell-dc.gov.uk), 01327 322365

**Sue Smith**  
**Chief Executive**

Published on Monday 4 March 2013