

# **Safer & Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee**

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**Thursday 12 January 2012 at 2.00 pm**

**To be held at the Town Hall  
Pinstone Street, Sheffield, S1 2HH**

**The Press and Public are Welcome to Attend**

## **Membership**

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Councillors Chris Weldon (Chair), Diane Leek (Deputy Chair), Jenny Armstrong, Joan Barton, Alison Brelsford, Jillian Creasy, Tony Damms, Anders Hanson, John Knight, Martin Lawton, Lynn Rooney, Frank Taylor, and Steve Wilson

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## PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE MEETING

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The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Committee exercises an overview and scrutiny function in respect of the planning, development and monitoring of performance and delivery of services which aim to make Sheffield a safer, stronger and more sustainable city for all of its residents.

A copy of the agenda and reports is available on the Council's website at <http://meetings.sheffield.gov.uk/council-meetings>. You can also see the reports to be discussed at the meeting if you call at the First Point Reception, Town Hall, Pinstone Street entrance. The Reception is open between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm, Monday to Thursday and between 9.00 am and 4.45 pm. on Friday, or you can ring on telephone no. 2734552. You may not be allowed to see some reports because they contain confidential information. These items are usually marked \* on the agenda.

Members of the public have the right to ask questions or submit petitions to Scrutiny Committee meetings. Please see the website at <http://meetings.sheffield.gov.uk/council-meetings/attending-meetings> or contact Democratic Services for further information.

Scrutiny Committee meetings are normally open to the public but sometimes the Committee may have to discuss an item in private. If this happens, you will be asked to leave. Any private items are normally left until last. If you would like to attend the meeting please report to the First Point Reception desk where you will be directed to the meeting room.

If you require any further information about this Scrutiny Committee, please contact David Molloy, Scrutiny Policy Officer on 0114 2735065 or email [david.molloy@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:david.molloy@sheffield.gov.uk).

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## FACILITIES

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There are public toilets available, with wheelchair access, on the ground floor of the Town Hall. Induction loop facilities are available in meeting rooms.

Access for people with mobility difficulties can be obtained through the ramp on the side to the main Town Hall entrance.

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**SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA  
THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2012**

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**Order of Business**

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- 1. Welcome and Housekeeping Arrangements**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Exclusion of Public and Press**  
To identify items where resolutions may be moved to exclude the press and public.
- 4. Declarations of Interest**  
Members to declare any interests they have in the business to be considered at the meeting.
- 5. Minutes of Previous Meeting**  
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011.
- 6. Public Questions and Petitions**  
To receive any questions or petitions from members of the public.
- 7. Consultation on the Future of Council Housing**  
Report of the Executive Director, Communities
- 8. Sheffield Homes: An Update on Customer Scrutiny and the Implications of the Localism Act**  
Report of the Chief Executive, Sheffield Homes
- 9. Welfare Reform and the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan**  
Report of the Executive Director, Communities
- 10. Policy Update**  
Report of the Scrutiny Policy Officer.
- 11. Date of Next Meeting**  
The next meeting will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 2.00 pm in the Town Hall.

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**ADVICE TO MEMBERS ON DECLARING INTERESTS AT MEETINGS**

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You will have a **personal interest** in a matter if it relates to an interest that you have already registered on the Register of Interests; relates to an interest that should be registered but you have not yet done so; or affects your well-being or financial

position or that of members of your family or your close associates, to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of people in the ward affected by the decision.

The definition of family is very wide and includes a partner, step-relations, and in-laws. A “close associate” is someone whom a reasonable member of the public might think you would be prepared to favour or disadvantage.

**If you have a personal interest you must:** declare the existence and nature of the interest at the beginning of the meeting, before it is discussed or as soon as it becomes apparent to you; but you can remain in the meeting, speak and vote on the matter unless the personal interest is also prejudicial.

However, in certain circumstances you may have an **exemption** which means that you might not have to declare your interest.

- You will have an exemption where your interest arises solely from your membership of or position of control/management in a body to which you have been appointed or nominated by the authority; and/or a body exercising functions of a public nature (e.g. another local authority).

In these exceptional cases, provided that you do not have a **prejudicial interest** you only need to declare your interest if you intend to speak on the matter.

- You will have an exemption if your personal interest is simply having received a gift or hospitality over £25 which you registered more than 3 years ago.

### **When will a personal interest also be prejudicial?**

Your personal interest will also be prejudicial if a member of the public who knows the relevant facts would reasonably think the personal interest is so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest; and

- i. either the matter affects your financial position or the financial position of any person or body through whom you have a personal interest. For example, an application for grant funding to a body on your register of interests or a contract between the authority and that body; or
- ii. the matter relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration that affects you or any relevant person or body with which you have a personal interest. For example, considering a planning or licensing application made by you or a body on your register of interests.

**Exemptions:** You will not have a prejudicial interest if the matter relates to:

- i. the Council’s housing functions – if you hold a lease or tenancy with the Council, provided that the matter under consideration is not your own lease or tenancy;
- ii. school meals, transport or travel expenses – if you are the parent or guardian of a child of school age, provided that the matter under consideration is not the school the child attends;
- iii. statutory sick pay;

- iv. Members' allowances;
- v. ceremonial honours for Members; or
- vi. setting the Council Tax.

**If you have a prejudicial interest, you must:**

- (a) Declare the existence and nature of the interest (in relation to the relevant agenda item) as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- (b) Leave the room unless members of the public are allowed to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter. If that is the case, you can also attend to make representations, give evidence or answer questions about the matter.
- (c) Once you have finished making representations, answering questions etc., you must leave the room. You cannot stay in the room whilst the matter is being discussed neither can you remain in the public gallery to observe the vote on the matter. In addition, you must not seek to improperly influence a decision about the matter.

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**FURTHER INFORMATION**

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If at all possible, you should try to identify any potential interest you may have before the meeting so that you and the person you ask for advice can fully consider all the circumstances before reaching a conclusion on what action you should take.

Advice can be obtained from Lynne Bird, Director of Legal Services on 0114 2734018 or email [lynne.bird@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.bird@sheffield.gov.uk)