

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING AND HOMES O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1400 hours on Tuesday 25 July 2017, Committee Rooms 3&4

Present:

Councillor Victoria Quinn

Councillors Roger Harmer, Penny Holbrook, Des Hughes, Mary Locke, Gary Sambrook and Margaret Waddington

Also Present:

Councillor Peter Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes

Rob James, Service Director, Housing Transformation

Jacqui Kennedy, Corporate Director, Place

Michael Walsh, Service Lead, Commissioning Centre of Excellence

Jayne Power, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Emma Williamson, Head of Scrutiny Services

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chairman advised the meeting to note that this meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

2. APPOINTMENT OF HOUSING AND HOMES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE CHAIR, DEPUTY CHAIR AND MEMBERS

RESOLVED:-

- (i) To note the resolution of the City Council appointing the Committee, Chair and Members to serve on the Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2018:-

Labour Group

Councillors Atwal, Cartwright, Gregson, Holbrook, Hughes, Idrees, Locke and Quinn (Chair)

Conservative Group

Councillors Sambrook, Storer and Waddington

Liberal Democrat Group

Councillor Harmer

- (ii) To elect Councillor Penny Holbrook as Deputy Chair of the Committee.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Andy Cartwright, Matthew Gregson, Mohammed Idrees and Ron Storer.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

(See document No 1)

RESOLVED:-

To note the Committee's Terms of Reference.

6. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2017/18

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee meets on the following dates at 1400 hours in the Council House:

2017	2018
20 September	23 January
17 October	20 February
14 November	28 March
12 December	17 April

7. ACTION NOTES – 16 MAY 2017

(See document No 2)

RESOLVED:-

- The Action Notes were noted.

8. CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES

(See document No 3)

Councillor Peter Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes, presented his update report.

In response to questions from Members, the following were among the main points raised:

- Registered Providers - Meetings had been held with Home Office representatives around developing an adult pathway scheme for provision of accommodation for people in need of supported accommodation and a further meeting was being arranged;
- Post-Grenfell safety - Conversations had been held with Registered Social Landlords (through the Birmingham Social Housing Partnership) regarding safety and RSLs had been asked to provide a list of materials used on their properties, as BCC had done;
- Selective Licensing – Report on consultation due in August;
- Homelessness Prevention Strategy – Members invited to contribute to the Task & Finish Groups set up to develop the strategy; it is important to understand how all the various bodies and groups involved with homelessness/rough sleeping fit together and also to have details of the outreach service;
- Energy Scheme – A report will go to Cabinet in September;
- Voids/allocation times – A note to be provided so Members can understand the report;
- Allocations Scheme – Update to be programmed for later in the year; Members also requested a ward-by-ward breakdown of those who did not re-register;
- Further information was requested what is being spent on new housing provision and investment in properties;
- Members also requested a note on the 35% affordable homes target.

RESOLVED:-

- That the following information be provided to Members:
 - Details of the Homeless Outreach Service (in particular, opening times);
 - Extract from the HRA Business Plan showing what is being spent on (a) new provision and (b) investment in properties;
 - Diagram showing all homelessness/rough sleeping bodies and groups;
 - Note on the 35% affordable homes target, explaining the difference between the aspiration and what has actually been delivered;
 - Note on average days taken to turn around a void in terms of allocation time;
 - Allocations Scheme – ward by ward breakdown of those who did not re-register.
- That an update on the Allocations Scheme be scheduled into the work programme;
- That Members be invited to participate in the Homelessness Positive Pathway Task & Finish Groups.

9. RESPONDING TO HOUSING NEED AND DEMAND

(See document No 4)

This item was discussed under agenda item 8, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes, as above.

10. WASTE UPDATE

Jacqui Kennedy, Corporate Director, Place, attended to give Members a verbal update on the industrial action.

In response to questions from Members, the following were among the main points raised:

- In terms of the amount of waste being collected , it would find it helpful to know what the average tonnage figures are for July compared to current tonnage during the industrial action;
- In terms of priority, a new approach had been introduced that week , directing activity going forward, and priority was being given to blocks of flats, schools, sacks, residual waste and recycling;
- Crews had been instructed to take all side waste;
- A weekly update would be sent to all elected Members at the end of the week;
- There had been some issues in the first few days in terms of missed roads. Hotspot mapping from reports of missed collections was now being used, as well as feedback from crews and the advice to residents is to leave bins out;
- With regard to green waste, the policy is that a refund will be given if there are three completely missed collections;
- The Cabinet Member had given assurance that contingency plans were in place to deal with refuse collection during the industrial action, but that the effectiveness of this could not be challenged without knowing what those contingency plans were.

RESOLVED:-

- Members to be provided with average tonnage figures compared to tonnage figures during the period of industrial action;
- Members to be provided with a note on what contingency plans were put in place.

11. WORK PROGRAMME 2017-18

(See document No 5)

RESOLVED:-

- The Work Programme was noted.

12. REQUEST(S) FOR CALL IN/COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION/PETITIONS RECEIVED (IF ANY)

None.

13. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

14. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 1640 hours.