

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING AND HOMES O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1400 hours on Tuesday 14 February 2017, Committee Room 6

Present:

Councillor Victoria Quinn

Councillors Gurdial Singh Atwal, Andy Cartwright, Matthew Gregson, Roger Harmer, Des Hughes, Mahmood Hussain, Mary Locke, Gary Sambrook, Sybil Spence and Ron Storer

Also Present:

Jim Crawshaw, Head of Housing Options

John Hardy, Commissioning Manager

Rob James, Service Director, Housing Transformation

Jayne Power, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Matthew Smith, Principal Enforcement Officer

Mike Walsh, Head of Service – Intelligence, Strategy and Prioritisation, Commissioning Centre of Excellence

Benita Wishart, Overview & Scrutiny Manager, Scrutiny Office

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. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Margaret Waddington.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. ACTION NOTES – 17 JANUARY 2017

(See document No 1)

RESOLVED:-

- The Action Notes were noted.

5. HOMELESS REVIEW

(See document No 2)

Rob James (Service Director, Housing Transformation), Mike Walsh (Head of Service – Intelligence, Strategy and Prioritisation, Commissioning Centre of Excellence) and Jim Crawshaw (Head of Housing Options) briefed Members on the Homelessness Review and the timeline for producing the Homelessness Strategy.

Members expressed their concerns about the timescales and officers made a commitment to look to shorten these.

RESOLVED:-

- Members to be provided with an update on bringing forward the timeline for the Homelessness Strategy.

6. ALLOCATIONS UPDATE

(See document No 3)

Jim Crawshaw (Head of Housing Options) updated Members on the implementation of the new Allocations Scheme and the latest statistics in relation to re-registration.

RESOLVED:-

- A copy of the re-registration letter to be sent to Committee members;
- Updates on re-registration statistics to be provided on a weekly basis.

7. PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR – SELECTIVE LICENSING

(See document No 4)

Rob James (Service Director, Housing Transformation) and Matthew Smith (Principal Enforcement Officer) attended to continue the discussions from the December and January meetings.

In response to questions from Members around selective licensing, and with reference to the DCLG guidance published in March 2015 on the criteria for the use of selective licensing powers, officers clarified the position with regard to the 11 wards selected for implementation and pointed out that other areas would also be considered.

RESOLVED:-

- An email to be sent to all members of the City Council to clarify the position with regard to the 11 wards and the fact that other areas will be considered, inviting Members to identify areas within their wards with a high concentration of problematic PRS;
- Officers to consider taking a stall at one of the City Council market place events to enable engagement with and response from Members as above.

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

None.

9. WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17

(See document No 5)

Members discussed the Work Programme.

The Chair raised with Members the proposal to cancel the April meeting and re-schedule for 16th May.

RESOLVED:-

- An email to be sent to Members confirming the proposed new date for agreement at the next meeting;
- The Work Programme was noted.

10. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted.

12. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 1615 hours.