

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HOMES O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1400 hours on Thursday 22 June 2023, Committee Room 6, Council House

Minutes

Present:

Councillor Mohammed Idrees (Chair)

Councillors: Ziaul Islam, Saqib Khan, Rinkal Shergill and Penny Wagg

Also Present:

Paul Clarke, AD, Programmes, Performance and Improvement Division (PPI), Strategy, Equality and Partnerships Directorate

Wayne Davies, Director, Asset Management

Marie Dobinson, Acting Improvement and Change Partner

Claire Flowers, AD, Housing Development

Stephen Gabriel, Director, Housing Management

Chris Jordan, AD, Neighbourhoods

Paul Langford, Interim Strategic Director, City Housing

Naomi Morris, Housing Modernisation and Partnership Manager

Stephen Philpott, Director, Housing Solutions and Support Service

Jayne Bowles, Scrutiny Officer

Amelia Wiltshire, Overview and Scrutiny Manager

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

The Chair advised that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Lauren Rainbow, Ron Storer and Ken Wood.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting, and none were declared.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOMES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Noted the resolution of the City Council meeting appointing the Committee, Chair and Members to serve on the Committee for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2024.

5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Cllr Lauren Rainbow was elected as Deputy Chair for the purposes of substitution for the Chair if absent for the period ending with the Annual Meeting of the City Council in 2024.

6. HOMES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

(See document No. 1)

The Terms of Reference for the Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee were noted.

7. MINUTES

(See document No. 2)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17 May 2023 were agreed.

8. ACTION TRACKER

(See document No. 3)

RESOLVED:

That the action tracker was noted.

9. DELIVERING EFFECTIVE AND FLEXIBLE SCRUTINY

(See document No. 4)

The Chair introduced the document which had been developed and agreed by the Coordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members were informed that this was about a more flexible way of delivering Scrutiny and other options can be considered as well as formal meetings, focussing on the best way to add value.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee noted the development of a flexible and effective work programme for 2023/24 as developed by members of the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the last municipal year 2022/23.

10. DEVELOPING THE HOMES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

(See document No. 5)

Paul Clarke, Assistant Director, Programmes, Performance and Improvement Division (PPI), Strategy, Equality and Partnership Directorate, Wayne Davies, Director, Asset Management, Marie Dobinson, Acting Improvement and Change Partner, Claire Flowers, Assistant Director, Housing Development, Stephen Gabriel, Director, Housing Management, Chris Jordan, Assistant Director, Neighbourhoods, Paul Langford, Interim Strategic Director, City Housing, Naomi Morris, Housing Modernisation and Partnership Manager, and Stephen Philpott, Director, Housing Solutions and Support Service, were in attendance for this item.

The Chair invited officers to briefly introduce themselves and following this a request was made for a structure chart, including names, titles and areas of responsibility, to be shared with members of the Committee. Paul Langford undertook to provide this.

Members were informed that Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the work programme report had been provided to assist with identifying priorities for 2023/24 and there had also been an informal meeting where some ideas had been put forward for consideration.

During the discussion, the following areas of work were identified:

Voids – Improving Standards

- This piece of work had been started by Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee last year, with a presentation from City Housing in March, and it was confirmed that the Terms of Reference could be updated for the Committee to take forward with a Task and Finish approach.
- It was agreed that the Committee would pick up this piece of work first, with scope and timescale to be confirmed.

Decent Homes Standard

- Aims and objectives and method of scrutiny to be discussed and agreed.

Tenant Engagement

- Aims and objectives and method of scrutiny to be discussed and agreed.

Affordable Housing Plan

- Aims and objectives and method of scrutiny to be discussed and agreed.

Performance Monitoring

- The Housing and Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been receiving quarterly performance monitoring reports.
- Future reporting to be discussed and agreed.

Exempt Accommodation

- The Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be picking up the tracking of the outstanding recommendations from the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee inquiry on Exempt Accommodation and this will be programmed in.

CWG Legacy

- Every Overview and Scrutiny Committee has this in their remit and consideration will need to be given to how it fits into the Homes remit and whether there is anything to be taken forward on that.

Domestic Abuse

- This relates to a Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolution asking Scrutiny Chairs to discuss how Domestic Abuse is relevant to their own committees and how they can have an involvement.

The Chair confirmed that officers would be consulted on the development of the work programme and that there would be a more thorough Member discussion at the July meeting.

RESOLVED:

- That the Committee:
 - Noted the information set out in Appendices 1 – 3 and identified a menu of topics for the Committee to explore over the coming year.
 - Confirmed the issues that the Committee will consider during September – October 2023, including the proposed aims and objectives and the preferred method of scrutiny, will be discussed in more detail and agreed in July.
 - Noted that a draft work programme will be presented to the Committee meeting in July for consideration and approval.
 - Noted, subject to a further input from the Chair and Deputy Chair outside of the meeting, its proposed work programme will be submitted to Co-ordinating O&S to enable work to be planned and co-ordinated throughout the year.
- That Committee members will be provided with a structure chart, including names, titles and areas of responsibility.

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

None.

12. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

13. SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES FOR COMMITTEE MEETING AND SCRUTINY WORK

RESOLVED:

That the proposed schedule of meeting dates was noted.

14. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

RESOLVED:

That in an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 1433 hours.