

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING AND HOMES O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1400 hours on Tuesday 16 May 2017, Committee Room 2

Present:

Councillor Victoria Quinn

Councillors Gurdial Singh Atwal, Roger Harmer, Mahmood Hussain, Mary Locke, Gary Sambrook and Sybil Spence

Also Present:

Councillor Tristan Chatfield, Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality

Rob James, Service Director, Housing Transformation

Jacqui Kennedy, Corporate Director, Place

Martin Tolley, Head of Capital Investment City Wide and Repairs East and South

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. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Andy Cartwright, Matthew Gregson, Ron Storer and Margaret Waddington.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. ACTION NOTES – 11 APRIL 2017

(See document No 1)

Members were advised that the Housing Strategy would be going to Cabinet in July. It was agreed that arrangements would be made for Members to receive an informal briefing prior to this.

RESOLVED:-

- An informal briefing on the Housing Strategy to be arranged.

- The Action Notes were noted.

5. CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPARENCY, OPENNESS AND EQUALITY

(See document No 2)

Councillor Tristan Chatfield, Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness and Equality, presented his update report.

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

- In general, Members felt that more detail was needed in Cabinet Member reports, together with data upon which Scrutiny can challenge. The Cabinet Member advised Members that KPIs would be available the following month;
- Members expressed concerns that there is no one in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) directly linked to Housing but were advised that there is a named contact officer in each of the quadrant areas;
- Concerns were raised about the way in which anti-social behaviour is dealt with and in particular Cllr Harmer requested information on what sanctions have been imposed on council tenants with regard to off-road bikes;
- With regard to the additional burdens to local authorities with the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act, Rob James confirmed that funding has been set aside and discussions are taking place with DCLG to see how funding will be allocated. A review of our approach to homelessness and commissioned services within the city has been underway and this is being pulled together with partners.

RESOLVED:-

- Names of the MASH contact officers to be sent to Members;
- Officers to provide the information requested with regard to off-road bikes;
- Officers to report back when the whole system review of homelessness has been completed.

6. HOUSING REPAIRS – CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE END OF YEAR REPORT

(See document No 3)

Martin Tolley, Head of Capital Investment City Wide and Repairs East and South, attended for this item.

Members raised a number of issues with the contractor performance end of year report, including:

- Lack of detail about the nature of challenges, progress and problems, etc.
- Customer satisfaction, specifically about the way that information is gathered and the timing of customer satisfaction surveys;
- Value for money on repair works;
- Lack of consistency of messages from call centre;

RESOLVED:-

- Officers to provide extra information and details in response to Members' concerns;
- Contractors to be invited to a future committee meeting.

7. WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17

(See document No 4)

RESOLVED:-

- The Chair invited Members and officers to send through any suggestions for the work programme for the forthcoming year;
- The Work Programme was noted.

8. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted.

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

None.

11. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 1628 hours.