

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING AND HOMES O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1400 hours on Tuesday 19 July 2016, Committee Room 2

Present:

Councillor Victoria Quinn

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

Also Present:

Cllr Peter Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes

Jim Crawshaw, Head of Housing Options

Pete Hobbs, Service Integration Head, Private Rented Sector

Rob James, Service Director, Housing Transformation

Amanda Simcox, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Mike Walsh, Head of Service, Intelligence, Strategy and Prioritisation

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. APPOINTMENT OF HOUSING AND HOMES O&S COMMITTEE AND CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

RESOLVED:-

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 City Council in 2017:-

Labour Group

Councillors Victoria Quinn (Chair), Gurdial Singh Atwal, Matthew Gregson, Des Hughes, Mahmood Hussain, Mary Locke and Sybil Spence.

Conservative Group

Gary Sambrook, Ron Storer and Margaret Waddington.

Liberal Democrat Group

Roger Harmer.

Cllr Matthew Gregson was appointed to be Deputy Chair of the Committee.

3. APOLOGIES

No apologies were submitted.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

(See document No 1)

RESOLVED:-

To note the Committee's terms of reference.

6. DATES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED:-

i) That the Committee meets on the following Tuesdays at 1400 hours in the Council House:

2016	2017
6 September	17 January
11 October	14 February
8 November	7 March
12 December	11 April

(ii) The Committee approved Tuesdays at 1400 hours as a suitable day and time each week for any additional meetings required to consider 'requests for call in' which may be lodged in respect of Executive decisions

7. CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND HOMES

(See document No 2)

Following an outline from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes, the discussion covered the need for citizens to be higher on the agenda, especially in the planning and designing of their neighbourhoods.

In response to questions, the committee heard that:

- A briefing note will be provided on the work ongoing outside the city centre to assist homeless and rough sleepers. This will include how many bed spaces are available and funded through the Supported People Programme.
- The Homeless Health Inquiry and the outreach contract the Council has with Midland Heart and other organisations will be discussed at a future committee meeting.
- The issues with off road bikes etc will be part of the Community Safety Partnership discussion.

8. NEW HOUSING ALLOCATIONS SCHEME

(See document No 3)

Mike Walsh, Head of Service, Intelligence, Strategy and Prioritisation and Jim Crawshaw, Head of Housing Options explained the problems with the IT system had resulted in the implementation of the new housing allocations scheme being postponed. Testing should be completed in September and the re-registration and the contacting of the 21,000 on the waiting list will not take place until the IT system is deemed to be fit for purpose.

In response to questions, the committee heard that:

- Moving from four Housing Advice Centres to one does not impact on the re-registration.
- There is already an on-line portal where everyone bids for properties on-line.

9. PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

(See document No 4)

Pete Hobbs, Service Integration Head, Private Rented Sector, outlined the services his team of 20 staff provides, including dealing with requests for assistance from private tenants, landlords and the mandatory licensing scheme.

- In response to questions it was agreed that the Empty Properties Strategy will be forwarded to Members.
- The Cabinet Member offered Members the opportunity for them to contact his office if they would like him to attend or visit a Housing Liaison Board, Forum etc.

10. WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17

(See document No 5)

The work programme will be updated and circulated to Members before the September committee meeting.

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

None.

12. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

13. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 1630 hours.