

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING AND HOMES O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1400 hours on Tuesday 17 January 2017, Committee Room 2

Present:

Councillor Victoria Quinn

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

Also Present:

Councillor Peter Griffiths, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes

Jim Crawshaw, Head of Housing Options

Gaynor Darby, Regional Housing Manager, Let to Birmingham

Carol Dawson, Senior Service Manager, Area Housing

Pete Hobbs, Service Integration Head, Private Rented Sector

Rob James, Service Director, Housing Transformation

Mary Latham, West Midlands Representative, National Landlord Federation

Pat Merrick, Assistant Director – Operations Commission

Jayne Power, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Tracey Radford, Service Integration Head, Landlord

Clive Skidmore, Head of Housing Development

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

There were no apologies.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. ACTION NOTES – 12 DECEMBER 2016

(See document No 1)

Cllr Spence requested that it be noted that she had submitted apologies for the 12 December meeting but that this had not been recorded.

RESOLVED:-

- The Action Notes were noted.

5. PROPOSED BUDGET 2017-18

Councillor Peter Griffiths (Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes), Rob James (Service Director, Housing Transformation), Pat Merrick (Assistant Director – Operations Commission) and Clive Skidmore (Head of Housing Development) attended to update Members on the budget consultation. The discussion focussed in particular on the proposed cuts to the Supporting People budget, the Gateway consultation and the proposals in relation to InReach.

RESOLVED:-

- Cabinet Member was requested to attend the February meeting to provide a post-consultation/pre-budget update.

6. RELEVANT UPCOMING AND FOLLOW UP ISSUES

(See document No 2)

Rob James (Service Director, Housing Transformation), Tracey Radford (Service Integration Head – Landlord) and Carol Dawson (Senior Service Manager, Area Housing) attended to provide Members with a briefing on the Review and Future Operating Model for the Sheltered Housing Service proposals in the report to Cabinet on 24 January.

RESOLVED:-

- The report was noted.

7. PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

(See document No 3)

Mike Walsh (Head of Service – Intelligence, Strategy and Prioritisation, Commissioning Centre of Excellence), Gaynor Darby (Regional Housing Manager, Let to Birmingham), Jim Crawshaw (Head of Housing Options) and Mary Latham (West Midlands Representative, National Landlord Federation) attended to continue the discussion from the December meeting, with a particular focus this time on Let to Birmingham.

Mike Walsh explained that Let to Birmingham started in January 2014 and was commissioned by the People Directorate as the city's first social lettings agency with the aim of improving the way the city makes use of the private rented sector for

citizens approaching the Council for assistance. It was set up as a funded contract for the first 18 months, which has now expired.

In response to questions from Members, Gaynor Darby provided further information with regard to the offer, aims and targets of Let to Birmingham, highlighting some of the issues around housing people in the private rented sector.

Jim Crawshaw explained that Let to Birmingham is currently used as a prevention offer and the vast majority of people who approach the Council want to secure social housing and often will refuse the offer of a private rented property.

RESOLVED:-

- This item to be brought back to the February meeting for further discussion on selective licensing and officers to provide details of best practice in the London Boroughs of Newham and Waltham Forest.

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

None.

9. WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17

(See document No 4)

Members discussed the Work Programme.

RESOLVED:-

- It was agreed that the February agenda would include further discussion on the Private Rented Sector and an update on the Homelessness Strategy Review.
- Members agreed to defer the Report on the Community Safety Partnership until the March 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 1641 hours.