

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HOUSING AND HOMES O&S COMMITTEE – PUBLIC MEETING

1400 hours on Tuesday 6 September 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 and Ron Storer

Also Present:

Jacqui Kennedy, Acting Strategic Director for Place

Jim Crawshaw, Head of Housing Options

John Hardy, Commissioning Manager – Prevention, Commissioning Centre of Excellence

Pat Merrick, Assistant Director - Universal, Prevention and Early Intervention, Commissioning Centre of Excellence

Amanda Simcox, Research & Policy Officer, Scrutiny Office

Max Vaughan, Lead - Behaviour Service Integration Manager, 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

Cllr Margaret Waddington's apologies were submitted.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. ACTION NOTES

(See document No 1)

RESOLVED:-

- To note the action notes.
- An update on the implementation of the new Housing Allocations Scheme would be added as an agenda item for the 11th October 2016 committee meeting.

5. EMT HOUSING PRIORITIES

(See document No 2)

Jacqui Kennedy, Acting Strategic Director for Place, confirmed that Housing is a priority for the Executive Management Team (EMT) and the infographic provided the statistics for the discussion on how we need to respond to the changes.

In response to questions it was agreed that the following would be forwarded to Members:

- Details of the two workshops being held in relation to the development of the Housing Strategy (8th and 29th September).
- Timescales for developing the Strategy.
- Details of the partners/stakeholders the Council are engaging with (to include who they are and why we are engaging with them). Members can then get back to officers with details of partners who may have been omitted from the list so any gaps can be filled.
- Briefing on the Housing and Planning Act 2016 and the major impact it will have on the City.
- Details regarding the fundamental review of place management before the end of the year.
- Report on empty properties in the City.

6. DRAFT DOMESTIC ABUSE PREVENTION STRATEGY

(See document No 3)

Max Vaughan and Pat Merrick - who had attended the meeting in place of Dr Mashuq Ali and Paula Harding - informed Members that a communications plan on how the draft strategy is consulted on will take place when Cabinet has agreed the draft strategy and consultation.

Members made a number of suggestions including the domestic abuse of older people (not just women) and requested that the evidence, or lack of evidence for the abuse to BME women and lesbians is looked at again (the table on page 6).

Members requested that 'tracked changes' of the suggestions were made to the draft and circulated.

In response to questions it was agreed that the following would be forwarded to Members:

- The background paper with the references and the research.
- A map of who the partners and groups involved are.
- Confirmation of timescales and forthcoming consultation

In addition, Members discussed the Progress Report on Implementation: Working with Communities to Prevent Relationship Violence.

RESOLVED:-

The Cabinet Member's assessment was agreed as:

- Recommendation 1: 3 (Not achieved – progress made)
- Recommendation 2: 3 (Not achieved – progress made)
- Recommendation 3: 3 (Not achieved – progress made)
- Recommendation 4: 1 (Achieved fully)

7. HOMELESSNESS SYSTEM REVIEW

(See document No 4)

John Hardy, Commissioning Manager – Prevention, Commissioning Centre of Excellence explained that this would be a transformational change programme with the ambition to commission a single homeless system.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes will be taking the decision in a couple of months.

In response to questions to John Hardy and Jim Crawshaw, Head of Housing Options, the Committee heard that:

- The South Birmingham Homeless Project will be discussed at the Northfield District Committee.
- Officers working in the Homeless Prevention Team will be reminded of the role of Councillors in relation to their constituents.

A suggestion was made that one of the new Assistant Leaders could be given the responsibility for being the Tsar for sorting out rough sleeping.

It was agreed that Members would be provided with:

- The Homeless Outreach Team telephone number.
- A map of who the partners/providers are and Members will assist in filling in any gaps.
- Information on people sleeping rough i.e. are these new or the same people and have they long term or short term problems.

RESOLVED:-

- Due to the approaching winter it was important to have short term recommendations and these need to come back to the Committee.

- Members were keen to assist further and Officers should get back to them if they wanted their assistance i.e. such as counting rough sleepers etc.
- That monthly programme progress updates will be provided.

8. WORK PROGRAMME 2016-17

(See document No 5)

RESOLVED:-

- The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes to attend the 11th October 2016 committee meeting. The discussion to include an update on the Housing Strategy, Homeless (including short term actions) and the implementation of the new Housing Allocations Policy.

9. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Noted.

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

None.

11. OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

12. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 1645 hours.