

# FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Housing Scrutiny Panel

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

**Date:** Thursday, 28 October 2021

**Venue:** Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

**PRESENT:**

**Councillor** Mrs K Mandry (Chairman)

**Councillor** (Vice-Chairman)

**Councillors:** S Dugan, G Fazackarley, Mrs C L A Hockley, Ms S Pankhurst  
and Mrs K K Trott

**Also  
Present:**



**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor N R Gregory.

**2. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 16 September 2021 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS**

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

**5. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

**6. EXECUTIVE BUSINESS**

**(1) External Redecoration Contract (ED0054) - Award of Tender**

There were no questions or comments for clarification in respect of this item.

**(2) Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 (LAD2) Funding Scheme for energy efficiency measures to Council homes**

There were no questions or comments for clarification in respect of this item.

**(3) Draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy - Consultation**

There were no questions or comments for clarification in respect of this item.

**7. FAREHAM HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SITES UPDATE**

The Panel received a report by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer which outlined the current position with Fareham Housing Sites.

The Panel was updated in respect of the sites at Capella Close and Sir Randal Cremer House as the Section 278 agreements with Hampshire County Council Highways have now reached technical approval stage; Queens Road as a revised planning application has been submitted to reduce the parking provision at the site; Sea Lane as the deed of variation with Homes England has now been agreed in principle; and Wynton Way as Hampshire County Council has confirmed that it will not be disposing of the Kershaw Centre.

Members commented that they were pleased that the Council is able to provide new homes across the Borough, particularly the much-needed

provision at Gordon Road. The Fareham Housing team was commended for the hard work that has gone into achieving this.

RESOLVED that the Housing Scrutiny Panel notes the content of the report.

## **8. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SOCIAL HOUSING PROVIDERS**

The Panel received a presentation by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer which informed members of the responsibilities of social housing providers and the measurement of service delivery.

The presentation outlined the definition of social housing providers, how they are regulated, how standards are applied, what action can be taken when things go wrong and how members can assist residents who ask for help. A copy of the presentation is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

The Deputy Chief Executive Officer was thanked for providing a very helpful and informative report.

RESOLVED that the Housing Scrutiny Panel notes the content of the report.

## **9. CLEANING CONTRACT STANDARDS FOR COUNCIL OWNED FLATS**

The Panel received a report by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer which outlined the cleaning contract standards for Council owned flats in the Borough and explained how these standards are monitored.

Members sought, and received, assurances that the window cleaning service standards will continue to be monitored to ensure that improvements are maintained.

Thanks were put forward to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer for an excellent and informative report and for all the help and advice given to members by the Fareham Housing Team in resolving issues for residents.

RESOLVED that the Housing Scrutiny Panel notes the content of the report.

## **10. FIRST HOMES SCHEME UPDATE**

The Panel received a report by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer which provided members with an update on the First Homes Scheme.

Members were supportive of the proposals outlined in the report in terms of local and national eligibility criteria and discussed whether there would be an opportunity for the Panel to pre-scrutinise the draft policy before it is considered by the Executive for approval. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer advised members that due to the short timescale involved, it is intended that an interim policy will be produced which will only include local connection eligibility criteria. Further research will then be carried out around affordability and cap implications as more information about the scheme emerges. On this basis, the Panel agreed that pre-scrutiny of the interim policy would not be required.

RESOLVED that having asked questions and made comments for clarification, The Housing Scrutiny Panel notes the content of the report.

**11. HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL PRIORITIES**

Members considered and discussed the Scrutiny Priorities for the Panel and agreed that there were no amendments to the Priorities required at the present time.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Priorities Plan be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm  
and ended at 7.20 pm).