

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Housing Scrutiny Panel

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Thursday, 11 April 2024

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs K Mandry (Chairman)

Councillor S Ingram (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: R Bird, F Birkett, H P Davis, Mrs K K Trott and M R Daniells
(deputising for Mrs C L A Hockley)

**Also
Present:**



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs C L A Hockley.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 08 February 2024 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) Fareham Housing Responsive Repairs Framework Contract Extension

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

(2) Affordable Housing at Welborne Garden Village

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

(3) Multi-dwelling unit acquisition for affordable housing

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

7. TENANT SATISFACTION MEASURES - CUSTOMER QUESTIONNAIRE OUTCOMES

The Panel considered a report by the Head of Housing (Pathways & Neighbourhoods) which provided members with information on the outcomes of the first full Tenant Satisfaction Survey that was undertaken in December 2023.

In discussing the historical post of Tenant Engagement Officer, the Panel was pleased to hear that a recent appointment has been made to the team which will look at new ways to work with tenants, to increase engagement with them and to reach out to a wider inclusion of people, all to assist with the ability of the Council to meet the expectations of the new Consumer Standards.

RESOLVED that the Housing Scrutiny Panel notes:

- (a) the content of the report; and
- (b) the intention to produce benchmark information later in 2024 and to report on improvements made based on feedback received.

8. HOUSING DELIVERY UPDATE

The Panel received a presentation by the Affordable Housing Delivery Manager which updated members on progress with Fareham Housing Sites and other relevant strategic housing matters. A copy of the presentation slides is attached to these minutes as Appendix A

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

9. ALLOCATIONS POLICY : UPDATE FOLLOWING CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT POLICY

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Housing which provided members with an update following full consultation on the draft Allocations Policy and incorporated how this is aligned and impacted by the current Government consultation on reforms to social housing allocations.

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

10. UPDATE ON HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION ON FUTURE SERVICES: POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO FAREHAM HOUSING

The Panel received a presentation by the Head of Housing (Pathways & Neighbourhoods) which provided details of the Hampshire County Council consultation on the provision of future services and the potential impacts to Fareham Housing. A copy of the presentation slides is attached to these minutes as Appendix B.

The Panel expressed deep concern at the Hampshire County Council proposal to withdraw funding for all services that support people who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness with effect from April 2024 and the impact that this would have in Fareham.

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

11. WELBORNE UPDATE

The Panel received a presentation by the Affordable Housing Delivery Manager and the Director of Housing which provided members with an update on Welborne. A copy of the presentation slides is attached to these minutes as Appendix C.

In discussing affordable housing for older persons, members received assurances that parking arrangements have been taken into account in the overall development plan for Welborne.

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

12. HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL PRIORITIES

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor D J Hamilton addressed the Panel during this item to request that, in due course when the upcoming local and national elections have taken place, consideration be given to the proposal that he presented at the Council meeting held on 23 February 2024 to recruit an additional Housing Development Officer and a Property Development Officer. Councillor Hamilton stated that it was this element of the proposal that he was requesting be taken forward as a priority.

The Panel felt that further information would be needed to assess the objective of the proposal, to consider the options available and to understand how the proposal could be funded. It was therefore agreed that a report be brought to a future meeting of the Panel for further consideration.

There were no other items put forward at this meeting for inclusion in the scrutiny priorities for the Panel.

RESOLVED that the Housing Scrutiny Panel:

- (a) reviewed the scrutiny priorities for the Panel; and
- (b) agrees that a report in respect of the proposal put forward by Councillor Hamilton be brought to a future meeting of the Panel for consideration at the appropriate time.

(The meeting started at 6.01 pm and ended at 7.04 pm).

..... Chairman

..... Date