

**HOUSING, PLANNING AND REGENERATION, AND REGULATORY SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
2ND JULY 2019**

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Grimley)
 The Vice Chair (Councillor Ranson)
 Councillors S Bradshaw, Brennan, Capleton, Hunt
 and Needham

Councillor Harper-Davies (Cabinet Lead Member
for Performance of Major Contracts), Smidowicz
(Cabinet Lead Member for Regulatory Services,
Enforcement and Licensing) and Vardy (Cabinet
Lead Member for Planning, Inward Investment
and Tourism Strategy)

Strategic Director of Housing, Planning,
Regeneration and Regulatory Services
Head of Landlord Services
Head of Planning and Regeneration
Head of Regulatory Services
Democratic Services Manager
Democratic Services Officer (NC)

The Chair stated that the meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. He also advised that, under the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

1. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

2. DECLARATIONS - THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations of the existence of the Party Whip were made.

3. QUESTIONS UNDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROCEDURE 11.16

No questions had been submitted.

4. NEW SCRUTINY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

A report of the Head of Strategic Support regarding the remit and terms and reference of the Committee was submitted (item 5 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Democratic Services Manager attended to assist the Committee with its consideration of this item.

RESOLVED that the information regarding the remit and terms of reference of the Committee set out in Part B of, and the appendix to this report be noted.

Reason

To assist the effective working of the Committee as part of the Council's new scrutiny committee structure.

5. 2018-19 QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND END OF YEAR OUTTURN REPORT

A report of the Strategic Director providing performance information for the fourth quarter of 2018 – 19 and end of year outturn, in respect of the Corporate Plan objectives and key performance indicators was submitted (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes). Additional information regarding anti-social behaviour and housing complaints was included.

At the invitation of the Committee the relevant Cabinet Lead Members and Officers attended to assist the Committee with the consideration of the red performance indicators.

The Cabinet Lead Member for Housing sent his apologies.

- a) performance indicator SLE2 – PR (completed the milestones in the Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2018-2021 for the preparation of the local plan).

The Cabinet Lead Member for Planning, Inward Investment and Tourism Strategy and the Head of Planning and Regeneration stated that:

- it was necessary to take the appropriate time to ensure the information in the Local Plan was accurate and evidence based.
- the Local Plan currently in place alongside the core strategy mitigated risks and provided context for planning applications. It was important for the Local Plan to be kept updated as an out-dated Plan could be more easily challenged by Developers.
- as further information was requested mid-year by the Local Development Framework Project Board and with competing priorities in the team the project timelines in the LDS had slipped. There was no direct impact on the Council and residents.
- the revised LDS had been submitted and agreed by the Cabinet in March 2019.

- b) performance indicator SLE4 – RS (complete phase 1 of the Beehive Lane car park improvements).

The Cabinet Lead Member for Regulatory Services, Enforcement and Licensing, and the Head of Regulatory Services stated that:

- the delay to installing car park railings on the top floor of the carpark was a result of multiple factors, including priority given to procurement of the fire detection system, only one tender had been received, the project was likely to be too small for larger companies, smaller local companies didn't necessarily have the health and safety expertise required and it was challenging to retro-fit safety railings to an existing car park.
 - other car park providers had been contacted for advice and to compare their approaches to similar issues.
 - temporary fencing had been installed to ensure the carpark was safe.
 - a new approach to encourage more tenders was being taken. A structural engineer would be contracted to help provide H&S expertise in a bid to encourage smaller local companies to apply.
- c) performance indicator ERM2 – LS (1) (invest in our housing stock through delivery of kitchens bathrooms and heating installations to provide high quality homes for Council tenants)

The Cabinet Lead Member for Performance of Major Contracts and the Head of Landlord Services stated that the delay in the delivery of bathrooms did not affect the decent homes standard as the replacement programme was organised around component dates. If a property was void and required a new kitchen / bathroom it would be replaced as part of the programme to get the property let again.

In respect of Appendix 2, anti-social behaviour (ASB) and housing complaints, the Head of Landlord Services noted that the housing repairs complaints included complaints from all teams in the repairs service. With respect to ASB behaviour complaints it was noted that cases opened in error or as duplicates resulted mostly from several complaints about the same issue being raised as individual cases and then being closed so only one case was open regarding the issue.

RESOLVED

1. that the Head of Landlord Services provides further information regarding the number of residents who were informed that the replacement of their bathroom would not be occurring during the council year due to slippage;
2. that the Head of Landlord Services discusses with the Community Safety team the inclusion of an additional category for cases closed as duplicates/entered in error.
3. that the performance results, associated commentary and the explanations provided be noted;

Reasons

1. To confirm that the Council informed residents of the situation when they had been told at the start of the year that their bathroom would be replaced.
2. To enable further scrutiny of this matter to determine if it is an issue.

3. To record the information contained in the 2018-19 Quarter 4 Performance Monitoring Information report and end of year outturn.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

A report of the Head of Strategic Support was submitted to enable the Committee to review and agree its work programme (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Democratic Services Manager assisted the Panel with the consideration of this item.

RESOLVED

1. that scrutiny of the Local Plan be scheduled to the Committee's meeting to be held on 10th December 2019;
2. that the current position with the Committee's Work Programme be noted.

Reasons

1. The Committee wished to scrutinise the development of the Local Plan after the second consultation has taken place in October 2019.
2. To make the Committee aware of the current position with its Work Programme.

NOTES:

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 2nd September 2019 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on the fifth working day following publication of these minutes.
2. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Housing, Planning and Regeneration, and Regulatory Services Scrutiny Committee.