

**HOUSING, PLANNING AND REGENERATION, AND REGULATORY SERVICES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
10TH DECEMBER 2019**

PRESENT: The Chair (Councillor Grimley)
The Vice Chair (Councillor Ranson)
Councillors S. Bradshaw, Capleton, Needham,
Gerrard and Bolton

Councillor Mercer (Cabinet Lead Member for
Housing)

Strategic Director of Housing, Planning,
Regeneration and Regulatory Services
Head of Landlord Services
Head of Planning and Regeneration
Head of Regulatory Services
Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing
Democratic Services Officer (NA)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Brennan

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.

16. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2019 were approved.

17. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

18. DECLARATIONS - THE PARTY WHIP

No declarations were made.

19. QUESTIONS UNDER SCRUTINY COMMITTEE PROCEDURE 11.16

No questions were submitted.

20. WORK PROGRAMME

A report of the Head of Strategic Support was submitted to enable the Committee to review and agree its work programme (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Strategic Director for Housing, Planning and Regeneration and Regulatory Services and the Democratic Services Officer assisted the Committee with its consideration of the report.

RESOLVED That the current position with the Committee's Work Programme be noted.

Reason

To enable the Council's new scrutiny arrangements to operate efficiently and effectively.

21. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

A report of the Strategic Director providing performance information for the second quarter of 2019 -20, in respect of the Corporate Plan objectives and Key Performance Indicators was submitted (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Strategic Director for Housing, Planning and Regeneration and Regulatory Services attended the meeting and assisted with consideration of the item.

RESOLVED That the performance results, associated commentary and the explanations provided be noted.

Reason

To record the information contained in the 2019-20 Quarter two Performance Monitoring Information report.

22. FIVE YEAR HOUSING LAND SUPPLY UPDATE

A report of the Head of Planning and Regeneration updating the Committee on the current status of the Council's five year housing land supply was submitted (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Strategic Director for Housing, Planning and Regeneration and Regulatory Services and the Head of Planning and Regeneration assisted with consideration of the item.

Summary of discussion:

- (i) The Council now had a housing land supply of 6.1 years and was not expecting the level to drop below 5 years.
- (ii) There was a stable trend moving forward which the Committee was pleased to hear.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

Reason

To acknowledge the Committee's consideration of the item.

23. UPDATE ON THE HOUSING, EMPTY HOMES AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGIES ACTION PLAN

A report of the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing updating the Committee on the delivery of the Housing, Homelessness and Empty Homes Strategies was submitted (item 9 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Cabinet Lead Member for Housing and the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing assisted with consideration of the item.

Summary of discussion:

- (i) The Council would complete regular housing needs surveys to determine the housing need in rural areas such as parishes. This was completed along with a resident's survey and identifying available land for development. There is also a link to the local neighbourhood plan and the housing allocations policy to ensure a joined-up approach.
- (ii) The Council had completed a Rough Sleeper count earlier in the year which identified three people sleeping rough. The Committee was advised that this figure changed throughout the course of the year and depending on the weather. Any rough sleepers were always approached and offered advice and support and the Council worked hard to ensure it looked after any rough sleepers.
- (iii) The eviction process was explained to the Committee and that every opportunity was given to tenants to retain their property.
- (iv) The Committee praised the Council's Lightbulb Service as being effective and receiving a high level of satisfaction from residents.
- (v) The Council was on target to recover 50 empty homes by the end of the year which would ensure they were on target to achieve over 250 empty homes by the end of the period.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Reason

To acknowledge the Committee's consideration of the item.

NOTES:

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 20th January 2020 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.