

Minutes of the meeting of the **SCRUTINY (POLICY AND PERFORMANCE) COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Tuesday, 11 September 2018 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Chairman: Councillor M I Cosin (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)

Councillors: T A Bond  
P I Carter  
P J Hawkins (as substitute for Councillor K Mills)  
J M Heron  
S C Manion  
M J Ovenden  
D A Sargent

Officers: Chief Executive  
Strategic Director (Operations and Commercial)  
Strategic Director (Corporate Resources)  
Mr A Stevens (Head of Shared Services, EK Services)  
Chief Executive - East Kent Housing  
Director of Customer Services  
Senior Policy Planner  
Democratic Services Manager

24 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R J Frost and K Mills.

25 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Councillor P J Hawkins had been appointed as substitute member for Councillor K Mills.

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

27 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 24 April 2018, 15 May 2018 and 3 June 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

28 PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Democratic Services Manager advised that no members of the public had registered to speak on items on the agenda to which the public speaking protocol applied.

29 DECISIONS OF THE CABINET RELATING TO RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SCRUTINY (POLICY AND PERFORMANCE) COMMITTEE

Members received the decisions of the Cabinet relating to recommendations made by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet decisions relating to recommendations from the Scrutiny (Policy and Performance) Committee be noted.

30 ISSUES REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY COUNCIL, CABINET, SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY AND REGENERATION) COMMITTEE OR ANOTHER COMMITTEE

There were no items of business.

31 ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY OR PLACED ON THE AGENDA BY A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE, ANY INDIVIDUAL NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OR PUBLIC PETITION

There were no items of business.

32 NOTICE OF FORTHCOMING KEY DECISIONS

The Democratic Services Manager presented the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions to the Committee for its consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Notice of Forthcoming Key Decisions be noted.

33 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

The Democratic Services Manager presented the Scrutiny Work Programme to the Committee for its consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme be noted.

34 PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 1, 2018/19

The Director of Finance, Housing and Community introduced the Performance Report Quarter 1 2018/19.

There were 4 red performance indicators (out of 31 total indicators) for Quarter 1 as followed:

East Kent Housing

- EKHL1 (Average time taken to re-let council dwellings)
- EKHC2 (Rent arrears as % of annual debit)
- EKHC3 (Former tenant arrears as % of annual debit)

Dover District Council

- HOU010b (Number of households in bed and breakfast – last day of the quarter)

The Chief Executive of East Kent Housing advised that in respect of indicator EKHL1, this was due to problems with the contractor turning around empty properties and it was expected that it would be back on track by Quarter 2 2018/19.

In respect of the arrears, it was stated that 7 people per day were moving onto Universal Credit in the district and according to national studies it could on average take up to 2 years for arrears arising from Universal Credit to be resolved.

In respect of amber indicator EKHM5 (percentage of properties with a valid gas safety certification) it was stated that this was down to a single property where they were having problems obtaining access.

Members were advised that the Council had purchased a number of properties to boost the amount of council owned temporary accommodation in order to get people out of bed and breakfast and was looking at other solutions.

RESOLVED: That the Performance Report Quart 1, 2018/19 be noted.

35 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT PLAN

The Chief Executive presented the Planning Enforcement Plan.

Members were advised that planning enforcement had been moved into the regulatory services section as there was a better synergy in grouping the Council's main enforcement areas together and it offered the opportunity to build a stronger enforcement culture, particularly where multiple offenses were being committed. There would also be increased transparency and accountability through the updated Planning Enforcement Plan.

Members called for improved communication and engagement with the public so that it was clear as to what the Council could and could not take enforcement action in respect of, including the use of posters and other visual material.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

36 STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Senior Policy Planner presented the report on the Statement of Community Involvement.

Members were advised that the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) set out how, when and where the Council would consult with local and statutory stakeholders both during production of development plan documents, and within the development management function. The Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017 introduced a number of additional requirements for SCIs, the most significant of which was to set out the Council's policies for giving advice or assistance in relation to Neighbourhood Planning. As a result, a replacement SCI was drafted for consultation which took account these changes through an updated SCI.

Councillor S C Manion pointed out that the document made reference to the PCT (Primary Care Trust) when it should refer to the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) and it was agreed that this would be updated in the document.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 7.02 pm.