

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY 12 JULY, 2016 AT 4.00 P.M.
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:: Councillors:

Foley, D. (Chairman)
Snape, P. (Vice-Chairman) (Substitute)

Cartwright, Mrs. S.M.	Molineux, G.N.
Cooper, Miss. J.	Snape, D.J.
Grice, Mrs. D.	Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Hoare, M.W.A.	Witton, P.T.
Johnson, T. (Substitute)	

Also Present: Observing:

Councillor F.W.C. Allen, Housing Portfolio Leader.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Burnett, A. Dudson, B. Hardman and Mrs. M.A. Davis, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader – for matters related to Social Alarms.

Councillor P. Snape was in attendance as substitute for Councillor G. Burnett and Councillor T. Johnson was in attendance as substitute for Councillor A. Dudson.

2. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members

No further declarations were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members Interests.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April, 2016 be approved as a correct record.

4. End of Year Performance Report 2015-16 – More and Better Housing Priority Delivery Plan

Report of the Head of Governance (Item 4.1 – 4.13).

Nirmal Samrai, Head of Housing and Waste Management presented the report and indicated that most projects were either complete or on target and further information was available within the Priority Delivery Plan.

A Member referred to the Strategic Objective Improving the Council's social housing and raising standards in the private rented sector, and reported that last week a landlord of a house in multiple occupation in Cannock had been prosecuted and fined over £5,000 due to inadequate facilities.

RESOLVED:

That the performance information relating to the More and Better Housing PDP as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

5. Housing Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2016-17

Report of the Head of Governance (Item 5.1 – 5.5).

The Head of Housing and Waste Management presented the report and outlined the process for how a Scrutiny review could be undertaken. She added that further information was available in the Overview and Scrutiny Toolkit.

She then referred to Appendix 2 the proposed Work Programme and reported that Members had been requested to forward any work programme items which may fall within the Committee's remit. She then went through the items which were proposed and provided Members with explanations.

A Member referred to the proposed Work Programme and reported that he had been contacted by a constituent concerning the age limit of children when applying for properties through the Council's online Uchoose system. There appeared to be an issue whereby people could be bidding for properties for a long time and when finally being accepted, the child was no longer classed as a child.

Members discussed this in detail and there was a consensus that this should be discussed at the next meeting when the presentation was given on the Council's Allocations.

The Head of Housing and Waste Management and Janet Baldasera, Strategic Housing and Tenancy Services Manager discussed this issue with Members and the different requirements of households, and agreed that this would form part of the discussions at the meeting in September.

Members discussed the proposed Work Programme and the services and issues within the Committee's remit which was agreed, with the inclusion of the following:

- Mutual exchanges – review of bidding process

- How down sizing from a property could be better promoted
- Universal credit
- Allocations – setting up a small focus group which would meet following the first meeting on 12 September, 2016 (Members were requested to give some thought to this).

RESOLVED:

That the Work Programme attached at Appendix 2 of the report for 2016-17, be agreed.

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting concluded at 4.35 p.m.).