

TENANT SCRUTINY BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 18TH APRIL, 2018

PRESENT: John Gittos in the Chair

Sallie Bannatyne, Maddie Hunter,
Rita Ighade, Roderic Morgan and Jackie
Worthington

86 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

None.

87 Late Items

The Chair accepted a late item around the lift situation at Cottingley Towers.

88 LATE ITEM - Lifts at Cottingley Towers

The Chair noted that one of the lifts had been out of use for seven weeks, leaving only one lift in operation. Concerns have been raised in the tower block around the number of people who are having to use one lift, exacerbated at present by contractors working in the block fitting sprinklers. The Chair noted that there has been little communication around the lift repair and concerns about the fact that a part is having to be made, delaying the repair further for this lift even though this is a fairly new installation.

Whilst this issue is specific to a particular block, the Board noted there is a programme of works to install new lifts across a number of multi storey blocks across the city and that this could be a problem which the Council need to resolve before the issue occurs in another block.

RESOLVED – That the Board request the Scrutiny Officer to ask for a formal response to the questions the Board posed.

89 Apologies for Absence

Olga Gailite, Michael Healey, Peter Middleton

90 Minutes - 14th March 2018

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2018 be approved as a correct record.

91 Draft March Environment, Housing and Communities Board Minutes

Agenda item for information only.

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Date Not Specified

92 Scrutiny Inquiry Anti Social Behaviour Draft Report

The Chair explained he and the Vice Chair had met with Scrutiny Officers to work on the draft report which is presented at this meeting. The Chair advised that the Board will go through the report at this meeting but if members wish to add any suggestions after the meeting to be included in the report to let the Scrutiny Officer know.

The Chair reminded members that 'where any member of the Tenant Scrutiny Board not to agree with the content of the Board's Report, they may produce a Minority Report setting out their findings and recommendations. The Minority Report will be attached as an appendix to the Tenant Scrutiny Board's Report.'

It was noted that this inquiry has been very different to ones carried out previously. It was noted that this inquiry had not only looked at procedures but also the behaviour of tenants in their communities.

The Board went through the draft report section by section and gave the following comments.

Noise Nuisance

It was noted through the Board's inquiry this was responsible for over 50% of ASB cases and a large proportion of these are from high rise blocks. The Chair noted that in suggesting an action day for noise, that this was inspired by the clean-up action days on estates which has been seen to work as it was targeting a particular problem. The Board agreed to include the word 'awareness' into the event.

IT Systems

The Board noted this is a common issue and something the Board has come across on all inquiries carried out. It was noted that the Council are gradually bringing in systems which can 'talk' to each other and it was noted that a new housing management system is being brought in which will benefit ASB Case Officers. The Board agreed to add into the report words about 'integration' and 'enable officers to carry out their roles efficiently' which would help better explain how the Board came to this recommendation.

CCTV

The Chair explained that fibre installations could take up to two years where as using radio signals from top of tower blocks could be installed quicker. SB noted that in West Leeds there is some work on upgrading cameras and they are installing equipment on the roof. Board agreed to add into the report clarification around the updates to tenants on work which is being carried out as clearly it was identified there is a planned programme of works available.

Recommendations 6, 7

These were noted by the Board with no additional amendments.

Recommendation 8

The Board noted point 37 in the draft report and that a recommendation should be included to address this issue via some form of audit carried out on these types of cases.

Mediation

The Chair noted that the inquiry had heard this isn't taken up much and he noted that when he had asked someone about this they hadn't heard of the service.

The Chair requested authorisation to sign off on their behalf given there is no formal meeting in May before closing this item.

RESOLVED – The Board agreed to allow the Chair to sign off the report on their behalf subject to amendments which have been made at this meeting and also any made by Board Members received by Scrutiny Officers before 30th April 2018.

93 Recruitment to Board and Training Opportunities

IM introduced this item and discussed his initial thoughts around a planned agenda for the May informal meeting. IM explained that there would be an opportunity for members to give general feedback on what is working well and what could be improved – acknowledging the good work which has been carried out by the Board. IM also discussed potentially having a development plan for the Board which would be things such as training which would be carried outside the formal meetings. There will also be a discussion around recruitment and how we can best attract new members to the Board.

94 Election of Chair

At this point in the meeting the Chair stood down from his position as Chair of Tenant Scrutiny Board and the Scrutiny Officer took the lead for this item.

IM explained as part of governance of the Board, there was a requirement each year to hold an election for Chair. Each member had been provided with a letter in their agenda packs prior to the meeting explaining the situation and offering them an opportunity to stand for Chair if they wished. IM received confirmation from members that all had received this.

IM explained one expression of interest for the Chair role has been received. As no other members came forward it was announced that John Gittos has expressed interest and so a vote was required to elect him to Chair.

RESOLVED – The Board voted by show of hands unanimously to elect John Gittos to the role of Chair for a further 12 months.

95 Election for Vice Chair

At this item the Vice Chair stood down from her position as Vice Chair of Tenant Scrutiny Board.

IM explained as part of governance of the Board, that the Board were required each year to hold an election for Vice Chair. Each member had been provided with a letter in their agenda packs prior to the meeting explaining the situation and offering them an opportunity to stand for Vice Chair if they wished. IM received confirmation that all members had received this.

IM introduced this item and explained one expression of interest for the Vice Chair role has been received. As no other members came forward and it was announced that Sallie Bannatyne has expressed interest and so a vote was required to elect her to Vice Chair.

RESOLVED – The Board voted by show of hands unanimously to elect Sallie Bannatyne to the role of Vice Chair for a further 12 months.

96 Date and Time of Next Meeting

May – Navigation House – informal meeting.

Next formal meeting of the Board will be in June – no date set. The Scrutiny Officer will keep members updated on this.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2:35PM