

SCRUTINY BOARD (ENVIRONMENT, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES)

MONDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 2019

PRESENT: Councillor B Anderson in the Chair

Councillors J Bentley, A Blackburn,
D Collins, A Gabriel, P Grahame, A Khan,
S McCormack, P Gruen, P Truswell,
J Akhtar, M Harland, B Flynn and
D Jenkins

60 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents.

61 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There was no exempt information.

62 Late Items

There were no late items.

63 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

64 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Bithell and Wilkinson.
Councillors Jenkins attended as substitute for Councillor Bithell and Councillor
W Flynn attended as substitute for Cllr Wilkinson.

65 Minutes - 23 January 2019

RESOLVED- That the minutes of the meeting held 23rd January 2019 be approved as a true record.

66 Council House Growth Programme Update

The report of the Director of Resources and Housing provided an update on the Council House Growth Programme, setting out the proposals for the delivery of further new housing across the City to increase the number of affordable homes.

The following were in attendance:

- Neil Evans – Director of Resources and Housing
- Mark Denton – Head of Council Housing Growth
- Cllr. D Coupar – Executive Member for Communities

Key areas discussed were:

- The assessment of available sites, particularly on greenbelt and brownfield land; It was noted that further work is ongoing and following the roll out of the Housing Growth Programme and the identified need for regeneration, there will be further opportunity for identifying sites;

Members were informed that if there were suitable sites in their wards, these could be assessed.

- Right to Buy (RtB) – concerns were raised relating to new properties, the private rented sector and the ability of tenants being able to access RtB where overhanging debt has been accrued. Members were informed that the Director of Resources and Housing and the Executive Board Member, have written to the Government regarding its policy around access to RtB where overhanging debt is involved.
- The performance and viability of energy efficient properties;
- Clarity was sought on the general approach to modular construction with particular regard to cost and construction efficiency. Members noted the intention to standardise house layouts to alleviate issues regarding contractors.

The Board thanked the officers for the hard work they're doing, to address the need in the city.

RESOLVED- The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities):

- a) Noted the contents of the report and discussions during the meeting.
- b) Noted the scope of the council's new housing scheme proposals and initial sites identified for the delivery of new general needs council housing for social rent, and that any decisions on disposal of council land / acquisition of private land to facilitate these schemes have been delegated to the Director of City Development;
- c) Noted that decisions regarding the final funding mix for each housing scheme taken forward have been delegated to the Director of Resources and Housing by Executive Board;
- d) Noted that authority to procure & award contract for each housing scheme is delegated to the Director of Resources and Housing;
- e) Noted that a further report on progress with delivery of the programme be brought to Executive Board in 2019.
- f) Noted the progress made in the delivery of the extra care housing programme.
- g) Noted that the sites at Cartmell Drive South, Halton Moor and Throstle Recreation Ground have been approved for the delivery of extra care housing.
- h) Noted the Adult Social Care system cost savings estimated to be generated from Package 1.
- i) Noted the likely position in relation to capital receipts arising from the programme and that the Director of City Development will negotiate the detailed terms including the financial consideration for the disposal of each site in Package 1 and will seek the approval of Executive Board to the final terms of each disposal.

Cllr J Akhtar arrived at 10:20am during consideration of this item.

67 Road Safety and Road Casualty Reduction and Initiatives

The report of the Director of City Development and the Director of Communities provided an update on police related activities to address anti-

social driving behaviour across the district and provided an overview of the progress made on the Leeds Killed or seriously injured (KSI) road casualty programmes.

The following were in attendance:

- Andrew Hall – Head of Transportation, City Development
- Paul Money – Chief Officer Safer Leeds, Communities and Environment
- Harvinder Saimbhi – Head of Operational Delivery, Communities and Environment
- James Rogers – Director Communities and Environment
- Inspector Nick Berry – West Yorkshire Police
- Superintendent Mark Jessop – West Yorkshire Police
- Cllr. D Coupar – Executive Member for Communities

Also in attendance, to undertake a joint scrutiny of this item, representatives of the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth):

- Cllr Truswell (Chair and member of the Scrutiny Board Environment, Housing and Communities)
- Councillor Shahzad
- Councillor Carlill
- Councillor Harrison
- Councillor R Grahame

Key areas discussed were:

- The importance of partnership working between LASBT, Localities, Policing and Highways.
- The role of the local community in terms of gathering evidence to identify areas for concern. Members sought clarity on points of contacts for local communities to report issues.
- Driver behaviour and the increased use of drug testing kits.
- Clarity was sought regarding addressing bike related anti-social behaviour, the measurements in place to combat issues and the level of police resources provided for off road bike problems. It was confirmed that this is a team of 4 officers covering the Leeds area. The Board were advised that over the past 12 months the team have responded to over 700 calls and seized 177 bikes, the majority of which were stolen.
- The policy review and changes with regard to the pursuit of off road bikes and quadbikes.
- The coordination of 6 Inspectors in the Neighbourhood Policing Team's (NPT's) and their involvement in identifying and dealing with speeding.
- Concern regarding the enforcement of 20mph zones. The Board was advised that some zones are 'self-enforcing' through the provision of traffic calming. The Board were informed of the tactical approach to the enforcement of speed limits and that local intelligence was useful to

identify areas of focus, therefore the public are encouraged to report concerns.

- The criteria and provision for the deployment of speed cameras.
- The use of MICE funding for the delivery of pro laser training courses in Rothwell and Middleton
- Clarity was sought on the process of reviewing speed limits and the framework in place to assist with this.
- Member's referred to the latest statistic on Leeds Killed or Seriously Injured (KSI) and were informed of enforcement measurements in place in an attempt to tackle the key collision issues.
- Concern regarding the length time taken for the courts to process cases. The Board were advised that Safer Leeds are aiming to establish closer links with the CPS and the Courts, and would seek representation on the 'Silver' Group.
- Clarity was sought regarding income streams from road safety/enforcement; Members were advised that all income is re-invested into improving road safety such as digital cameras.

During consideration of this item, Cllr. Akhtar withdrew for a short while.

RESOLVED- The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities):

- a) Noted the contents of the report and progress made.
- b) Noted the Board's discussions and the issues identified for further consideration.

68 Work Schedule

The Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support submitted a report which invited Members to consider the Board's work schedule for the 2018/19 municipal year.

Members acknowledged that the March meeting would have reports on reducing repeat customer contracts, the impact of Universal Credit, the Development of Community Hubs, a Migration Update and the Boards draft scrutiny inquiry report on kerbside collections and recycling domestic waste for consideration and agreement.

RESOLVED- The Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities):

- a) Noted the matters outlined in this report.
- b) Agreed the overall work schedule (as presented at Appendix 1) as the basis for the Board's work for the remainder of 2018/19.

69 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED- To note the date and time of the next meeting as Wednesday 13th March 2019 at 10am.