

Housing Scrutiny Commission

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Housing Scrutiny Commission held on Monday 28 October 2019 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Gavin Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Jack Buck
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor Bill Williams
Cris Claridge

**OTHER MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

OFFICER Tom Vosper - Strategic Project Manager
SUPPORT: Richard Selley - Director of Customer Experience
Ian Swift - Head of Housing Solutions
Shelley Burke – Head of Overview & Scrutiny
Fitzroy Williams – Scrutiny Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from councillors Hamish McCallum, Nick Johnson, Anood Al-Samerai and Ina Negoita co-opted member.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th July 2019 were approved as a correct record.

5. DISTRICT HEATING

5.1 Tom Vosper the Strategic Project Manager attended the meeting and presented the update on the future strategy of district heating, during the presentation the officer highlighted the following areas:

- Heat pumps installations in 5 possible locations
- Expanding the SELCHP heat network
- Improved efficiency across the board and prioritising of the investments

Following the presentation the officer took questions from members of the commission and public on operational issues.

5.2 The chair thanked the officer for the presentation and stated that the commission would discuss district heating at a future meeting and produce a final report.

6. TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

6.1 The chair stated that a number of members had requested this item to be looked at via scrutiny and welcomed Richard Selley the Director of Customer Experience and Ian Swift the Head of Housing Solutions to the meeting and asked the officers to introduce the report and then take questions from the commission.

6.2 The Director of Customer Experience undertook to circulate the renters union update to commission members.

6.3 The chair thanked the officers for the report and attending the meeting and then reported that the commission should have a further discussion on the new housing allocations scheme and temporary accommodation to provide recommendations to Cabinet around any areas of concern.

7. VOIDS

7.1 The chair reported that this was a good report from last years Housing and Environment Scrutiny Commission, which contained a lot of useful information but some of the recommendations were a bit vague and needed some work, particularly around the private rented sector. The chair with the agreement of the commission decided that this item of business would be come back to a future meeting to discuss and agree specific recommendations before submitting to the Cabinet.

8. HOUSING REPAIRS

8.1 The chair presented the slide show to the commission regarding housing repairs, which sets of work already done and the themes emerging within the housing repairs scrutiny work. The following points were highlighted:-

- Formal interviews of officers from the last meeting
- 3 members of the commission spent a day with housing repairs operatives
- Informal interview with the Head of Repairs
- Councillor Bill Williams attended Tenant's Council to request tenants views on repairs
- Survey to test some of the statistics of repairs
- Recording of housing repairs telephone calls
- Missed appointment statistics - £50 payments
- Verification of repair - lack of tenant involvement

8.2 The chair undertook to receive information on repairs from homeowners council, he then answered members questions and explained how different repairs were coded and undertaken from the housing operatives.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

Meeting ended at 9.40 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: