

Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission held on Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 6.30 pm (Online virtual meeting).

PRESENT: Councillor Gavin Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Radha Burgess
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor Sunny Lambe (Reserve)
Councillor Jane Salmon (Reserve)

OTHER MEMBERS

PRESENT: Councillor Evelyn Akoto, Cabinet Member for Public Health and
Community Safety
Councillor Leo Pollak, Cabinet Member for Housing

OFFICER

SUPPORT: Everton Roberts, Head of Overview and Scrutiny (Acting)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Humaira Ali and Doro Dixon-Fyle.
Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Hamish McCallum.

CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

Those Members listed as present were confirmed as the voting members for the meeting.

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

There were no additional late items.

The chair informed the meeting that supplemental agenda No.1 contained the reports on Affordable Housing Delivery and Retention, and Anti-Social Behaviour and Noise on Southwark Council Estates. Supplemental agenda no.2 contained the minutes from the

last meeting.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2020 be approved as a correct record.

5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING DELIVERY AND RETENTION

Councillor Leo Pollak, Cabinet Member for Housing provided the commission with an overview of the current position in respect of affordable housing delivery and retention as set out in the report circulated with the agenda. The commission also heard from Juliet Seymour, Planning Policy Manager.

Following the cabinet member's introduction the commission asked questions of the cabinet member around the following.

- Hidden Homes programme and whether they count towards 11,000 new homes target
- Possibility of building on closed roads in the future, and the capacity that may represent in increasing land that the council could build on
- Pace of delivery of new homes
- Role of ward councillors in supporting projects
- Number of homes that will have been completed by 2022
- Consistency in describing and tracking progress
- Affordable housing monitoring data and correct tenure classification
- Online information not being up to date and ability to access online information
- Peckham Place
- Tenants being involved with identifying new sites
- Provision of a staff map (for new homes) to enable residents to understand which officers are responsible for particular areas, along with contact information
- Right to buy completions, continued depletion of council housing stock

The chair gave an indication that the commission may want to come back on this issue later in the municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

6. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND NOISE ON SOUTHWARK COUNCIL ESTATES

Councillor Evelyn Akoto, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Community Safety provided the commission with an overview of the report and the complexities of addressing anti-social behaviour and noise. The commission also heard from Jackie McGeever, Business Unit Manager.

Following the cabinet members overview, questions and discussion were held around the following:

- Noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour caused by people suffering with poor mental health or drug and alcohol addictions.
- How the performance of the Noise Team is managed
- Impact of short term lets and noise
- Difficulties presented by the Covid-19 lockdown and lessons learnt
- Problems caused by non-residents of an area (people who do not live there)

RESOLVED:

That the report on antisocial behaviour and noise nuisance on Southwark housing estates be noted.

7. COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS - DECISIONS OF CABINET

This item was included in the agenda for information.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

Councillor Gavin Edwards, Chair gave a presentation on the proposed work programme for the 2020-21 year which took into account work programme suggestions from previous meetings.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed work programme be agreed.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

CHAIR:

DATED: