

Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission

Wednesday 10 February 2021
6.30 pm

Online/Virtual. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting. Please contact FitzroyAntonio.williams@southwark.gov.uk for a link to the meeting.

Membership

Councillor Gavin Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Radha Burgess
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Paul Fleming
Councillor Jon Hartley

Reserves

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Councillor Sarah King
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Victoria Olisa
Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Bill Williams

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

You have the right to request to inspect copies of minutes and reports on this agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Access

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Contact

Everton Roberts on 020 7525 7221 or email: everton.roberts@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Eleanor Kelly

Chief Executive

Date: 2 February 2021



Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission

Wednesday 10 February 2021
6.30 pm

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Order of Business

Item No.	Title	Page No.
	PART A - OPEN BUSINESS	
1.	APOLOGIES	
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT	
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear working days of the meeting.	
3.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
	Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
4.	MINUTES	1 - 4
	To approve as correct records the Minutes of the meetings held on 1 December 2020 and 28 January 2021.	
5.	BUILDING SAFETY AND CLADDING	
	To receive information on Building Safety and Cladding in Southwark.	To follow

Item No.	Title	Page No.
6.	WORK PROGRAMME 2020-2021	5 - 9

To note the housing and community engagement scrutiny commission work programme as at 10 February 2021.

DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER OPEN ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING.

PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF ANY CLOSED ITEMS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT.

Date: 2 February 2021



Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission held on Thursday 28 January 2021 at 6.30 pm (Online virtual meeting).

PRESENT: Councillor Gavin Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Radha Burgess
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE
Councillor Jon Hartley
Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Jane Salmon (Reserve)

OTHER MEMBERS

PRESENT: Councillor Alice Macdonald, Cabinet Member for Communities and Equalities
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 Councillor Hamish McCallum.

MEMBERSHIP

The commission noted that Councillor Damian O'Brien had replaced Councillor Humaira Ali as voting member on the commission.

The commission also noted the intention for Councillor Damian O'Brien to replace Councillor Hamish McCallum as vice-chair of the commission following consideration by overview and scrutiny committee.

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 cabinet report on Empty Homes Action Plan and Supplemental Agenda No. 2 contained the report Update on Implementation of Resident Participation.

Comments from the Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations (SGTO) in respect of the implementation of resident participation proposals was circulated at the meeting.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

It was reported that the minutes of the last meeting were still to be finalised and would therefore need to be deferred to the next meeting.

VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

At this juncture the chair indicated that he would take items 7, 8 and 9 before items 5 and 6 to enable cabinet members who were attending other meetings, time to join the commission meeting.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRUCTURES - SOUTHWARK RESIDENT PARTICIPATION FRAMEWORK

Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities provided the commission with an update on the implementation of the resident participation framework. The commission also heard from Councillor Alice Macdonald, Cabinet Member for Communities and Equalities and Eva Gomez, Resident Involvement Manager.

The Commission asked questions of officers and the cabinet member.

The commission then heard from Cris Claridge in her capacity as chair of Southwark Group of Tenants Organisation (SGTO) on behalf of tenants. Cris outlined concerns and issues raised by tenants as set out in the written submission from SGTO circulated at the meeting. The commission then heard from Ina Negoita who provided observations on the implementation process, terms of reference and tenant and leaseholder representation and operation of forum meetings.

Following further discussion and representations, in acknowledging the good progress that had been made on implementation, but also that there were still a number of teething problems and frustrations, the chair put forward a suggestion that the commission take on board the comments set out in the SGTO's written submission, comments at the meeting and invite further submissions through SGTO and this information be used to put forward a constructive submission from the commission into the review that was due to take place in July 2021 as referenced in the officer update report.

RESOLVED:

That the commission put forward a submission into the review process due to take place in July 2021.

6. EMPTY HOMES ACTION PLAN [CABINET REPORT]

Councillor Leo Pollak, Cabinet Member for Housing provided the commission with an overview of the proposed Empty Homes Action Plan due to be considered by cabinet on 2 February 2021. The commission also heard from Cheryl Russell, Director of Resident Services.

Members of the commission asked questions of the cabinet members and officers.

In respect of the interim scrutiny commission report the chair indicated that in light of the proposed Empty Homes Action Plan report and information that is known now that he would not be proposing to put forward any of the recommendations that are in the two year old interim report.

RESOLVED:

That the Empty Homes Action Plan report be noted.

7. REPORT: RESPONSE TO SCRUTINY COMMISSION REPORT ON HOUSING REPAIRS [CABINET REPORT]

This item was on the agenda for information only.

RESOLVED:

That the cabinet response to the scrutiny commission report on Housing Repairs be noted.

8. RESPONSE TO HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMISSION REPORT INTO DISTRICT HEATING [CABINET REPORT]

This item was on the agenda for information only.

RESOLVED:

That the cabinet response to the housing scrutiny commission report into district heating be noted.

9. WORK PROGRAMME 2020-2021**RESOLVED:**

That the work programme as at 28 January 2021 be noted.

The meeting ended at 8.44 pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 10 February 2021	Meeting Name: Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission
Report title:		Work Programme 2020-21	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		N/a	
From:		Head of Overview and Scrutiny (Acting)	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the housing and community engagement scrutiny commission note the work programme as at 10 February 2021 attached as Appendix 1.
2. That the housing and community engagement scrutiny commission consider the addition of new items or allocation of previously identified items to specific meeting dates of the commission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The general terms of reference of the scrutiny commissions are set out in the council's constitution (overview and scrutiny procedure rules - paragraph 5). The constitution states that:

Within their terms of reference, all scrutiny committees/commissions will:

- a) review and scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the council's functions
- b) review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the cabinet and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time in areas covered by its terms of reference
- c) review and scrutinise the performance of the council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas
- d) question members of the cabinet and officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects and about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area

- e) assist council assembly and the cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues
 - f) make reports and recommendations to the cabinet and or council assembly arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process
 - g) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants
 - h) liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working
 - i) review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance
 - j) conduct research and consultation on the analysis of policy issues and possible options
 - k) question and gather evidence from any other person (with their consent)
 - l) consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the scrutiny process and in the development of policy options
 - m) conclude inquiries promptly and normally within six months
4. The work programme document lists those items which have been or are to be considered in line with the committee's terms of reference.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The Housing service areas that fall within the scope of the Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission are:
- Resident Services (which includes area management, strategy and business support, strategic business and support housing services).
 - Customer Experience Division (which includes the Contact Centre; Customer Resolution and Specialist Services, My Southwark Home Owners and the Housing Solutions Services).
 - Asset Management Division (which includes New Homes; Investment, Repairs & Maintenance and Engineering).
6. The cabinet portfolio elements relating to this commission are listed below:

Housing (Councillor Leo Pollok)

- Housing Strategy
- New council homes
- Housing allocations and lettings
- Council housing asset management strategy and investment programmes
- Housing repairs and major works
- Homeowners services
- Private rented housing
- Empty homes and under occupation
- Short term-lets
- Relationship with housing associations

Leisure, Environment and Roads - Councillor Catherine Rose (Housing related portfolio areas)

- Estate cleaning

Communities and Equalities – Councillor Alice Macdonald (Community related portfolio areas)

- Community engagement, participation and development
- Community and tenants and residents halls and centres
- Faith communities

Social Support and Homelessness – Councillor Helen Dennis

- Establishing a Southwark Community Support Alliance (building on the success of the community hub)
- Homelessness services

7. Set out in Appendix 1 (Work Programme) are the issues the housing and community engagement scrutiny commission is due to consider in the 2020-21 municipal year.
8. The work programme is a standing item on the housing scrutiny commission agenda and enables the commission to consider, monitor and plan issues for consideration at each meeting.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission agenda and minutes	Southwark Council Website	Everton Roberts 020 7525 7221
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=551		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Work Programme 2020-21

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Everton Roberts, Head of Overview and Scrutiny (Acting)	
Report Author	Everton Roberts, Head of Overview and Scrutiny (Acting)	
Version	Final	
Dated	2 February 2021	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team		2 February 2021

Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission Work Programme 2020-21

Item	Meeting date					Commentary
	14 Oct 2020	1 Dec 2020	28 Jan 2021	10 Feb 2021	29 Mar 2021	
Items for future consideration – either allocated (✓) or to be allocated.						
Scrutiny Review of Community Hubs	✓	-	-	-	✓	
Estate communal areas (cleaning service, noise response and ASB)	✓	✓	-	-	✓	
Affordable Housing Delivery	-	✓	-	-	-	
Empty Homes	-	-	✓	-	-	
Building Safety and Cladding	-	-	-	✓	-	
Tenant Engagement Structures	-	-	✓	-	-	
Cabinet Member Interviews	-	-	-	-	-	Meeting date to be identified

Housing and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020-21

AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)

NOTE: Original held by Scrutiny Team; all amendments/queries to Fitzroy Williams Tel: 020 7525 7102

Name	No of copies	Name	No of copies
Electronic Copy		Aine Gallagher - Cabinet and Public Affairs Manager	
Members			
Councillor Gavin Edwards			
Councillor Damian O'Brien			
Councillor Hamish McCallum		External	
Councillor Radha Burgess		Caroline Vicent	
Councillor Paul Fleming			
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE			
Councillor Jon Hartley			
Reserves Members			
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai			
Councillor Sarah King			
Councillor Sunny Lambe			
Councillor Victoria Olisa			
Councillor Jane Salmon			
Councillor Andy Simmons			
Councillor Bill Williams			
Co-Opted Members			
Tbc			
		Total: 14	
		Dated: February 2021	