



HOUSING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON TUESDAY,
20TH JULY 2021 AT 5.30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor J. Ridgewell – Chair
Councillor M. Adams – Vice Chair

Councillors:

D. Cushing, C. Elsbury, R. W. Gough, G. Kirby, B. Owen, Mrs D. Price, W. Williams and B. Zaplatynski.

Cabinet Members:

Councillor Mrs L. Phipps (Cabinet Member for Housing).

Together with:

S. Isaacs (Rents Manager), L. Allen (Principal Group Accountant – Housing), M. Jacques (Scrutiny Officer), S. Hughes (Committee Services Officer) and M. Harris (Committee Services Support Officer).

RECORDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairperson reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded and would be made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. [Click here to view.](#)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Bevan, L. Harding, A. G. Higgs, Ms P. Leonard, Mrs G. D. Oliver and Mrs M. E. Sargent.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES – 20TH APRIL 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 20th April 2021 (minute nos. 1 - 6) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. CALL-IN PROCEDURE

There had been no matters referred to the Scrutiny Committee in accordance with the call-in procedure.

5. HOUSING AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Officer presented the report which outlined details of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme for the period July 2021 to March 2022 and included all reports that were identified at the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20th April 2021. Members were asked to consider the Forward Work Programme, alongside the Cabinet Forward Work Programme, prior to publication on the Council's website.

A Member referred to the Cabinet Forward Work Programme and raised a query in relation to the key issue for the Dog Control PSPO Proposals report as it was his understanding that Cabinet would be updated on the results of a public consultation exercise with respect to the exclusion of dogs from marked sports pitches on a permanent basis, rather than a seasonal basis. The Scrutiny Officer advised the Committee that he would seek clarification from the author of the report and circulate to all Members.

Following consideration of the report it was moved and seconded that the recommendations be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme be published on the Council's website.

6. CABINET REPORTS

None of the Cabinet reports listed on the agenda had been called forward for discussion at the meeting.

A Member commented on the Regeneration Board – Project Proposals report and a number of concerns were raised.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Consideration was given to the following report.

7. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET MONITORING - OUTTURN 2020/21

The Cabinet Member for Housing presented the report to inform Members of the outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for the 2020/21 financial year. It was

highlighted that the HRA capital programme, which is predominantly funded by the HRA, is also included within the report.

A Member raised a number of queries and sought guidance in relation to the WHQS programme. In conclusion it was agreed that the Member would outline the queries in an e-mail to the Cabinet Member for Housing, who would then organise a meeting with the Member and Officers to discuss.

A query was raised regarding the increased costs in relation to the security of void properties as a consequence of the Covid-19 restrictions. It was noted that Welsh Government have recently confirmed that the HRA will not receive any assistance from this Fund, on the basis that no other Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) are receiving any assistance. The Principal Group Accountant for Housing advised Members that there is no information on RSL's but the authority is liaising with Welsh Government to try and pool information together in order to get some comparison information.

In response to a Members query regarding the HRA underspend of £10m, the Principal Group Accountant for Housing confirmed that it will predominantly be spent on completing the WHQS programme this financial year. Members were advised that the deadline for completing the programme is December 2021. In response to a Members query the Rents Manager provided a statement on rent arrears and summarised the past 12 months.

Further information was sought regarding the situation of void properties within other local authorities. In response it was confirmed that the Cabinet Member for Housing would arrange for the information to be gathered and circulated to Committee Members.

Members of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee noted the content of the report.

The meeting closed at 6.07 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2021, they were signed by the Chair.

CHAIR