

**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 15 February 2021**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillor Jamie Lane (Chair), Councillor Graham Walker (Deputy Chair) Councillors Tony Ansell, Rufia Ashraf, Janice Duffy, Gareth Eales, Penny Flavell, Andrew Kilbride, Sam Kilby-Shaw, Dennis Meredith, Emma Roberts, Cathrine Russell and Zoe Smith

Councillor Stephen Hibbert – Cabinet Member – Housing  
Councillor Anna King – Cabinet Member – Community Engagement and Safety  
Councillor Mike Hallam – Cabinet Member - Environment  
Mike Kay - Chief Executive, NPH  
Phil Harris – Director – Housing and Wellbeing  
Vicki Rockall - Community Safety Manager  
Geraldine Mahney – Customer Services Manager  
Tracy Tiff – Democratic and Member Services Manager

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Aziz.

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2021 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

**3. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES**

There were none.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)**

Councillor Kilbride and Councillor Smith declared an interest in agenda items 5 and 6 as members of NPH Board.

**5. NPH AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Mike Kay, Chief Executive, NPH, presented the briefing note and highlighted the salient points:

- The Committee made comments, asked questions and heard:

- In response to a query regarding the application and bidding process, it was confirmed that every application should be reviewed at intervals.
- The waiting list is on a rolling 12 months. It will change and fluctuate.
- A support team provides support as required.
- There is a large new build programme
- NPH undertakes repairs to properties as required.

Mike Kay was thanked for his address.

AGREED: That the update is noted.

## **6. UPDATE ON THE HOUSING ACQUISITIONS SCHEME**

Councillor Stephen Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing and Phil Harris, Director of Housing and Wellbeing, presented the briefing note and highlighted the salient points:

The Committee made comments, asked questions and heard:

- The Committee welcomed the very detailed report
- In response to a query regarding the need for 4 bedded properties, the Committee was apprised that discussions are taking place regarding the possible acquisition of 2 4-bedded properties. There is however more success with smaller properties.

Councillor Hibbert and Phil Harris were thanked for their address.

AGREED: That the update is noted.

## **7. CABINET RESPONSES TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTS**

The Committee received the action plan in relation to food poverty and the key points were emphasised.

The Committee made comments, asked questions and heard:

- The Committee welcomed the progress to date on the actions contained within the food poverty report; particularly given that the report had only recently been received by Cabinet.
- Information regarding the winter grant scheme was welcomed
- There is a lot of partnership working regarding tackling food poverty
- A copy of the Overview and Scrutiny report has been sent to the MPs and the Lead for Food Poverty at WNA.
- It was noted that another tranche of DEFRA grant funding is expected.

Councillor Anna King and Geraldine Mahney were thanked for their address.

AGREED: That the update is noted.

The Committee received the action plan in relation to gangs and knife crime and the key points were emphasised.

The Committee made comments, asked questions and heard:

- It was confirmed that all ten recommendations from this high-profile scrutiny review had now been actions or were well underway.
- It was highlighted that youth provision for Blackthorn is a priority.

Councillor Anna King and Vicki Rockall were thanked for their address.

AGREED: That the update is noted.

## **8. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY**

The Committee received comprehensive briefing notes to the performance indicators:

- HML07 – Number of households prevented in becoming homeless
- ESCO1 – Missed bins collection

The key points were highlighted, and the Committee was satisfied with the details contained within the briefing notes.

AGREED: That the updates were noted.

## **9. POTENTIAL FUTURE PRE DECISION SCRUTINY.**

At this point, concerns were raised to the Chair that further scrutiny had not been undertaken on Northampton Forward.

## **10. URGENT ITEMS**

The Chair thanked the Committee for all its dedication and hard work over the years. He highlighted the good work undertaken and that a number had been recognised nationally as best practice. He thanked Officers for their support and hard work too.

The meeting concluded at 7:15 pm