

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH) held in Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 5 July 2023.

PRESENT: Councillor C M Gleadow – Chair.

Councillors A M Blackwell, S J Corney,
I D Gardener, J E Harvey, A R Jennings,
R Martin and Dr M Pickering.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S A Howell, N Wells and G J Welton.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor S Wakeford .

15. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

16. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The responses to questions previously asked at meetings were noted.

17. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

18. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Panel received and noted the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions (a copy of which has been appended in the Minute Book) which has been prepared by the Executive Leader for the period 1st July 2023 to 31st October 2023.

19. TENANCY STRATEGY

By means of a report by the Regeneration and Housing Delivery Manager (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book) the Tenancy Strategy was presented to the Panel.

Following an observation from Councillor Pickering that lifetime tenancies did not motivate tenants to become self-sufficient in terms of their own housing, the Panel heard that whilst there was no easy answer to this, Housing Associations awarded tenancies based upon making best use of the existing housing stock.

In response to a question from Councillor Corney, the Panel heard that whilst it was difficult to anticipate how Housing Associations

would deal with tenancy issues, a balance had been struck to ensure that they would meet their obligations to residents.

Councillor Gardener observed that it would have been helpful to see where changes had been made from the previous policy and queried the life expectancy of the policy. The Panel were advised that the anticipated review date of 10 years would be fluid to allow for earlier or later revision depending on external factors and best interests of residents. Following a further question from Councillor Gleadow on the anticipated review date of 10 years, the Panel were advised that this was a normal review date for this type of strategy.

The Panel heard, following a question from Councillor Gleadow, that analysis of active RPs had been undertaken to ensure that the policies being adopted were aligned. It was further assured to the Panel, that all consultees mentioned within the document were active within the district following an enquiry from Councillor Blackwell.

The Panel were assured that despite the unknown of the future, the policy would provide flexibility and security.

Whereupon, it was thereupon

RESOLVED

that the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel be passed to Cabinet for their consideration when making a decision upon the recommendations contained within the report.

20. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

With the aid of a report by the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme was presented to the Panel.

Chair