

PEOPLE AND HEALTH OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2023

Present: Cllrs Cathy Lugg (Vice-Chairman), Tony Alford, Pauline Batstone, Jean Dunseith, Beryl Ezzard, Stella Jones and Howard Legg

Apologies: Cllrs Mike Parkes, Ryan Holloway and Rebecca Knox

Also present: Cllr Graham Carr-Jones

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Andrew Billany (Corporate Director for Housing), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Sharon Attwater (Service Manager for Housing Strategy and Performance), Sarah Smith (Housing Strategy Lead) and Joshua Kennedy (Apprentice Democratic Services Officer)

42. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mike Parkes, Ryan Holloway, and Rebecca Knox.

Vice-Chair in the chair.

43. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

44. Minutes

Proposed by Cllr Batstone, seconded by Cllr Ezzard.

Decision

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2023 be confirmed and signed.

45. Public Participation

There was no public participation.

46. **Councillor Questions**

There were no questions from councillors.

47. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

48. **Committee's Work Programme and Cabinet's Forward Plan**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer outlined the committee's work programme for the upcoming meetings on 6 February and 19 March 2024.

There were no comments on the work programme or Cabinet's Forward Plan.

49. **Home In On Housing - Dorset Council's Housing Strategy**

The Lead Member for Housing introduced the Housing Strategy which was a high-level document setting out the vision, aims and objectives for housing in Dorset. The strategy was developed over the past 12 months through a series of internal and external stakeholder engagement and a public consultation. The strategy would replace former district council housing policies, and a delivery plan would sit behind the strategic document.

The Corporate Director for Housing and Community Safety gave a presentation to the committee. The presentation, which is attached to these minutes, outlined: the development of the strategy; the visions and objectives; the key themes from consultation responses; how the strategy would be delivered; and the next steps for delivery.

Members discussed the report and asked questions of the officers and Lead Member. The following points were raised:

- Parts of Part 2 of the cover report, outlining the Housing Strategy, could be made stronger relating to the delivery of new affordable housing and the link to the Climate and Ecology Strategy. It was acknowledged that the Housing Strategy itself was detailed and strong, and the delivery plan work would cover those, and other, areas of priority.
- The council should be prepared, when viable and appropriate, to use its status as a registered provider to acquire homes when other independent registered providers do not.
- Some registered providers have sold homes, largely because they were in poor condition and were not economic to maintain.
- The council bringing empty properties back into use was welcomed.
- The delivery plan would be developed in various parts, with the overarching delivery plan to be developed in early 2024.

- The housing strategy and delivery plan would be reviewed and monitored, and aspects of that plan being brought to appropriate Council committees – including the Housing Board and specific reports to Scrutiny and Overview.
- A key part of the delivery would be determined through the Local Plan and associated policies across the range of Council policies.

Members thanked officers for their support in developing the strategy.

Proposed by Cllr Legg, seconded by Cllr Ezzard.

That the following be added to the end of paragraph 2.3 of the cover report: “As a Registered Provider we will seek to provide housing that is not currently provided by registered providers. We will also be open to consider s106 housing where no registered provider is identified.”

Proposed by Cllr Legg, seconded by Cllr Ezzard.

That the following be added to the end of paragraph 2.5 of the cover report: “which is in accordance with Dorset Council’s Climate and Ecological Strategy.”

Both amendments to the cover report were unanimously supported by the committee.

Proposed by Cllr Batstone, seconded by Cllr Ezzard.

Decision

That the Housing Strategy and its objectives, and the amendments to the cover report, be recommended to Cabinet.

50. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 10.54 am

Chairman

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