

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 February 2024

**PRESENT:**

**Labour Group**

Councillor S Bambrick (Chair) and Councillor M Gee (Vice-Chair)  
and Councillors A Jones, G Jones and L Mulgrew.

**Conservative Group**

Councillor A Kirke.

**In Attendance**

Councillor A Archer  
Councillor A Tilley  
Councillor A Wheelton

OS/37 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillors N Atkin and D Muller (Conservative Group).

OS/38 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM ITEMS ON AGENDA**

The Committee was informed that no Declarations of Interest had been received.

OS/39 **QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Public had been received.

OS/40 **QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

**OS/41 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000 (RIPA) REPORT ON USAGE AND POLICY UPDATE**

The Monitoring Officer presented the report and the updated policy document to the Committee.

Members raised questions regarding the use of camera surveillance at sites used for illegal dumping of waste, the purchasing of age restricted goods, examples of surveillance that would be considered within the policy and record retention procedures.

The Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that overt surveillance was not covered by Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and that trading standards were covered by the County Council.

The Monitoring Officer informed the Committee that the threshold of the Act had been increased to imprisonable offences and surveillance would be authorised by the Magistrate's Court. There were strict procedures in place for the retention and disposal of records relating to the use of surveillance.

**RESOLVED:**

***1.1 That the Committee approved the Council's Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 ('RIPA') Policy and Guidance document attached as Appendix 1 of the report.***

***1.2 That the Committee noted the internal report on the Council's use of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.***

**OS/42 REVIEW OF COMMUNITY BUILDINGS**

The Chair proposed that the report be deferred for inclusion at the next meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Committee agreed to defer the report to the next meeting for additional information to be included.***

**OS/43 HOUSING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR – Verbal Update/Presentation**

The Interim Head of Housing provided a verbal update of the Housing Repairs and Maintenance Contractor highlighting the importance of retaining knowledge and leadership in the department, the update of the Housing Revenue Account, current and future housing stock and the phased implementation of the new arrangements which were confidential at the time of the meeting.

The Interim Head of Housing described the key themes that would be included in the six month Housing review namely Housing Revenue Actions, Housing Pipeline, Asset Management, Self-Assessment which would include standards and policies, Housing Modernisation and Tenancy Services.

The Asset and Improvement Manager provided an update on the status of Void Properties in the District and confirmed that a full report would be presented to the Housing and Community Services Committee on 07 March 2024.

Members sought clarity on causes of major voids, energy efficiency measures, use of local builders, property disposal, certification and when a property is inspected before it is classed as void.

The Interim Head of Housing informed the Committee that damp, leaks and lack of heating extended the length of time a property was classed as void, processes for providing energy efficient measures would be reviewed with an improvement plan going forwards, local sub-contractors were used to return void properties for relet and that the costs of maintenance for each property type would be considered in identifying any properties for redevelopment or disposal.

The Housing Manager confirmed to the Committee that all certification records ensuring Tenant safety would be correctly assigned to all property records as part of the improvement plans and that all properties received an inspection at the time the Tenant gave notice to leave the premises.

OS/44 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the updated report to the Committee noting that an additional item would be included at the March meeting relating to Section 106 Funding Agreements for Education.

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.***

OS/45 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RESOLVED:**

***That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the Meeting as it would be likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.***

OS/46 **EXEMPT QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

***The Committee was informed that no exempt questions from Members of the Council had been received.***

The Meeting terminated at 18:45hours.

COUNCILLOR S BAMBRICK

CHAIR