

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD: 2 JULY 2015

Start: 7.30pm

Finish: 8.40pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Furey (Chairman)

Ashcroft	Mee
Mrs Blake	Nixon
Bullock	O'Toole
Davis	Pendleton
Delaney	Pryce-Roberts
Devine	Savage
Greenall	Westley
Kay	

Officers: Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration (Mr B Livermore)
Principal Solicitor (Mrs T Sparrow)
Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer (Mrs C A Jackson)

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 2, Members noted the termination of membership of Councillors Cotterill, Forshaw, Mrs Houlgrave and Whittington and the appointment of Councillors Pryce-Roberts, Mee, Mrs Blake and O'Toole respectively, thereby giving effect to the wishes of the Political Groups and the permanent appointment of Councillor Delaney.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. DECLARATIONS OF PARTY WHIP

There were declarations of a Party Whip.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2015 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. RELEVANT MINUTES OF CABINET

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Cabinet held on 16 June 2015.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 June 2015 be noted.

8. CALL IN ITEMS

There were no items under this heading.

9. DRAFT LANDLORD SERVICES DISABLED ADAPTATIONS POLICY

Consideration was given to the draft report of the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration in relation to the draft Landlord Services Disabled Adaptations Policy for consultation purposes that sought agreed comments, if any, to be referred to him.

In discussion comments and questions were raised in relation to the following:

- Major adaptations – assessments (process; application support; role of voluntary sector).
- Adaptation Panel - role; membership; reporting mechanism.
- Funding adaptations – maximum limit; sourcing/types of additional funding.
- Responding to changing needs – “future proofing”; application timescales; flexibility and review; removing uncertainty.
- Means testing – categories; definitions; young person age-cap.
- Adaptations and residency – tenant transfer (criteria; sensitivities)
- Impact on HRA – budget issues; capital programme; future planning.
- Linking to private sector policy.

It was recognised that there were challenges to produce a suitable policy and yet is also mindful of the sensitivities surrounding the needs of eligible tenants with mayor adaptations to their homes and resource implications.

The Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration provided clarification on issues raised and responded to questions referring to details set down in the report. In response to Member questions on the means testing criteria at 7.2 of the draft policy and budget implications resulting from installation/ dismantling of adaptations already funded, he made an undertaking to circulate additional information.

RESOLVED: As a consequence of the discussion on the Draft Landlord Services Disabled Adaptation Policy consultation document the Committee asked that the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration be mindful of the discussion and concerns raised by Members therein and the agreed comment be:

“That the report, following completion of the consultation process, be referred for consideration by this Committee, before final approval of the Policy by Cabinet.”

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Chairman