

Minutes:

Scrutiny Inquiry Panel – Combating Loneliness in Southampton –
2nd March, 2017

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee –
10th August, 2017

SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL - COMBATING LONELINESS IN SOUTHAMPTON
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2 MARCH 2017

Present: Councillors Furnell (Chair), Coombs (Vice-Chair), Burke, Murphy, Parnell and T Thomas

Apologies: Councillor Laurent

11. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on 8th December 2016 and 19th January 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

12. **COMBATING LONELINESS IN SOUTHAMPTON - DRAFT FINAL REPORT**

The Panel considered the report of the Service Director, Legal and Governance recommending that the Panel discuss, amend and approve a final version of the Combating Loneliness Inquiry report.

RESOLVED that the Panel agreed the final version of the report with the following additional recommendation:

- To enable effective monitoring of progress it is appropriate that a mechanism is developed by which success in combating loneliness can be measured against.

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 AUGUST 2017

Present: Councillors Fitzhenry (Chair), Moulton (Vice-Chair), Fuller, Furnell, Murphy and Whitbread

Apologies: Catherine Hobbs and Councillors Hannides, Morrell, T Thomas and Coombs

16. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

The Committee noted the apologies of Catherine Hobbs, Councillor Coombs, Hannides, Morrell and T Thomas. The Committee also noted that following receipt of the temporary resignation of Councillor Coombs from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, the Service Director, Legal and Governance, acting under delegated powers, had appointed Councillor Blatchford to replace her for the purposes of this meeting.

17. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED that the minutes for the meeting held on 13th July, 2017 be approved and signed as correct record.

18. **TOWER BLOCK SAFETY**

The Committee considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Adult Care providing an update on the steps being taken by the Council, with Hampshire Fire and Rescue and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Local Resilience Forum, to provide assurance that the Council's 20 residential high-rise buildings are safe, following the tragic events at Grenfell Tower in London on 14th June, 2017.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Adult Care, representatives from Hampshire Fire and Rescue and local residents were present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the timetable and milestones for the installation of sprinkler systems across the Council's 20 high rise buildings are circulated to the Committee;
- (ii) That, factoring in the fire risks identified, the Committee are provided with the priority order for the installation of sprinkler systems within the Council's high rise buildings;
- (iii) That the Committee are provided with information on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing cap and the existing level of borrowing for the HRA;

- (iv) That the Cabinet Member outlines to the Committee the funding options that the Administration are considering to enable the installation of sprinkler systems if no Government funding is forthcoming;
- (v) That the Cabinet Member write to the Communities and Local Government Secretary / Housing Minister requesting authorisation to extend the HRA borrowing cap to enable sprinkler systems to be installed in each of the Council's high rise buildings as soon as possible;
- (vi) That the Administration adopts the policy position that it will go ahead with the installation of sprinkler systems in all Council owned high rise buildings regardless of the Government's funding decision;
- (vii) That details are provided to the Committee on:
 - The number of flats within the Council's high rise buildings that still have a gas supply
 - The timescales being worked to for the disconnection of the gas supply to these properties
- (viii) That the Committee are provided with:
 - A summary of the emergency planning scenarios and outcomes
 - Specific examples of emergency planning scenarios
- (ix) That the Service Lead, Council Housing and Neighbourhoods responds directly to the concerns of the tenants representative relating to the consultation with residents and the accessibility of the communications provided.

19. **FORWARD PLAN - LOCAL AUTHORITY TRADING COMPANY FOR SOME LOCAL SERVICES**

The Committee considered the report of the Service Director, Legal and Governance detailing the LATCo for Some Council Services decision on the current Forward Plan.

The Leader of the Council was present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED that the Leader circulates to the Committee the timescales and milestones for the establishment of the LATCo and when services would begin to trade commercially.

20. **REDUCING DRUG RELATED LITTER - SCRUTINY INQUIRY TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee considered the report of the Service Director, Legal and Governance requesting that the Committee agree the terms of reference for a scrutiny inquiry examining reducing drug related litter in Southampton.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that the draft terms of reference for the scrutiny inquiry be approved; and

- (ii) that authority be delegated to the Service Director, Legal and Governance, in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel, to finalise the inquiry plan.

21. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE**

The Committee received and noted the report of the Service Director, Legal and Governance detailing the actions of the Executive and monitoring progress of the recommendations of the Committee.

