
NOTICE OF MEETING

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT PANEL

WEDNESDAY, 26 JULY 2017 AT 5.30 PM

CONFERENCE ROOM A - CIVIC OFFICES

Telephone enquiries to Vicki Plytas on 023 9283 4058

Email: vicki.plytas@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

If any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting has access requirements, please notify the contact named above.

Membership

Councillor Scott Harris (Chair)
Councillor Ian Lyon (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Ben Dowling
Councillor Colin Galloway
Councillor Steve Hastings

Councillor Stephen Morgan MP
Councillor Gemma New
Councillor Darren Sanders
Councillor Tom Wood

Standing Deputies

Councillor Yahiya Chowdhury
Councillor Alicia Denny
Councillor Leo Madden

Councillor David Tompkins
Councillor Matthew Winnington
Councillor Rob Wood

(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

Deputations by members of the public may be made on any item where a decision is going to be taken. The request should be made in writing to the contact officer (above) by 12 noon of the working day before the meeting, and must include the purpose of the deputation (for example, for or against the recommendations). Email requests are accepted.

A G E N D A

- 1 Declarations of Members' Interests**
- 2 Apologies for Absence**

3 Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 April 2017 (Pages 3 - 8)

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4 Notice of Motion Referral from 21 March Council Meeting - Hampshire Fire Service (Pages 9 - 16)

Background documents are attached. The Panel is asked to consider the Notice of Motion referral.

RECOMMENDED that the Panel considers what it wishes to report back to Full Council and agrees a statement for that purpose.

Members of the public are now permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting or records those stating explicitly that they do not wish to be recorded. Guidance on the use of devices at meetings open to the public is available on the Council's website and posters on the wall of the meeting's venue.

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT PANEL

Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Panel held on Tuesday, 11 April 2017 at 3.00 pm at the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Simon Boshier (in the Chair)

Councillors Ian Lyon
Ben Dowling
Steve Hastings
Stephen Morgan
Darren Sanders
Tom Wood

5. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Alicia Denny and Scott Harris.

6. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of members' interests.

7. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2017 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 February 2017 be confirmed and signed by the chair as a correct record.

8. Update on Scrutiny Review - "Revitalising Local High Streets and Secondary Shopping Areas in the City" (AI 4)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The Chair advised that the two reports that were before the Panel today were those that members had voted to look at. He invited the Assistant Director of Culture and City Development, Claire Upton-Brown to present her report which she then did.

With regard to the recommendation concerning traders' associations, efforts had been made to re-establish historical trading groups and a series of meetings had been set up with traders' groups hosted by PCC. These had met with varying degrees of success. The City Centre Association was getting stronger and was encouraged by recent improvement work. It met on a regular basis and was proactive. Cosham traders did not attend the meeting. Only two people attended the Southsea meeting and there was no appetite for a formal trading group to be set up there. Active traders' groups included Albert Road, Castle Road, Fratton and North End. Ms Upton-Brown

said that no major issues had been identified by these traders' groups but PCC has regular dialogue with some of them.

The Chair said that it would be useful for the traders' groups to approach the Council with suggestions and ideas so that these could be looked at and supported where possible. Ms Upton-Brown agreed saying that if there was an issue that was of concern, then the City Council would try to help. For example the fountain in Commercial Road had been found to have mould in it and so PCC had arranged for COLAS to deep clean it.

Ms Upton-Brown confirmed that cleaning and maintenance work was part of an ongoing programme and the Council welcomed matters being brought to its attention. The appearance of the city is very important as people enjoy visiting places that looked well cared for.

In response to queries, the following matters were clarified

- With regard to putting forward bids for external funding, Ms Upton-Brown said that in order to put forward a bid that has any chance of succeeding within the city centre other changes and improvements must first be made. Ms Upton-Brown said that vacancy rates and footfall are monitored. In the city centre, vacancy rates were just above average. In Southsea, vacancy rates were higher.
- Feedback from traders was that the move to anchor some cultural venues and events in the tertiary shopping areas was seen as beneficial as this increased footfall.
- It was confirmed that some work was being carried out with national marketing assistants to look at where the city stands in terms of improving shops and trading and the outcome is expected to be reported to the Planning Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio in due course. Part of that work would be to consider what to focus on - markets or events and also care would be needed as to where these would be sited.
- Members said that a major issue in shopping areas was parking and people living in the North of the city may go to Petersfield because of that.
- Members noted that it may be that an area could be helped as much by a cultural event or attraction as by an anchor store and that wider analysis is needed about this.
- With regard to tickets for PCC-led events at PCC venues and facilities in the shopping areas (item 6 of the update on implementation of recommendations in the report), members asked how many tickets had been sold through libraries and also whether the Council receives a percentage of the ticket sales. Ms Upton-Brown said she would find out and arrange to advise members of the panel.
- Members suggested that it might be useful to have different plans for different areas and these could include a Farmers' Market or a Craft Fair - but not the same thing in different areas.
- Members suggested that the Council needs to look at how it communicates with traders as anecdotal evidence suggests that the relationship between some traders and the Council could be very much improved. Other local Councils such as Petersfield appeared to be

more helpful to traders for example by providing details of available grants.

- It was confirmed that the "Quieter Routes" initiative mentioned under item 3 of the update had been launched on 11 April 2017. Members said that a further piece of work on analysing the Quieter Routes could be done to see if this was safer for cyclists. Also if railings were provided to lock bikes to, these would need to be carefully sited so as to avoid obstructing pavements.
- With regard to the process of accessing CIL money, Ms Upton-Brown confirmed that this was an officer led process and officers would have conversations with all Ward members where there was CIL money. However officers did not create a list to guide members to specific projects.
- Members said that often officers and members had different ideas on where CIL money should be spent as there were competing priorities.

There followed a general discussion on the scrutiny process and whether it had made a difference or would the actions have been implemented anyway. The following points were made during the discussion:-

- Some members said that when a scrutiny review is undertaken it highlights areas that are going to be looked at and consequently officers also look at those areas and if they can, they will address any issues during the course of the review. It is often difficult therefore to be clear about cause and effect as by the end of the review many of the recommendations may already have been implemented.
- Members asked whether it would be possible to show the recommendations that the scrutiny report had influenced. Ms Upton-Brown said that would be very difficult as it would mean trying to ascertain whether the recommendation had been particularly influenced or not influenced at all plus all the stages in between.
- Members said that they liked the format of the second report that showed in tabular form each recommendation, who would carry out the action, who was the Lead Officer and gave a Red Amber Green (RAG) rating.

The Chair thanked Ms Upton-Brown for the report.

The Scrutiny Management Panel noted the report.

9. Update on Scrutiny Review - Domestic Abuse (AI 5)

(TAKE IN REPORT)

Bruce Marr, Hidden Violence Service Manager, introduced the report. He explained that the scrutiny report was published on 29 April 2014 with 20 recommendations. These were reviewed by the Domestic Abuse Commissioning Review group on 16 January and 6 May 2015. He explained that of the 20 recommendations, 16 were rated green ie had been achieved, 3 were rated amber and 1 was rated red. Appendix 1 set out the recommendations and recorded what had been done for each one.

Members commented that the format of the report and appendix was easy to understand and suggested this should be used as a template going forward.

In response to queries

- Mr Marr said that the review mentioned in the report was around provision and intervention. 20 years ago, little was done about domestic abuse. Around the late '90s, the profile of domestic abuse was raised significantly and police handling of domestic abuse improved dramatically. At the time, it was regarded as being a gender issue, with men being the perpetrators and women being the victims. The issue is now viewed differently by some and is seen as being much more complex. Domestic abuse covers many aspects of where a person has power over another and includes unhealthy relationships generally.
- The Domestic Abuse strategy is being updated and the scrutiny review into domestic abuse is being used to inform that.

Mr Marr went on to say that the recommendation that was still on Red in the Appendix to the report was "Access to specialist mental health services be improved." He said that the threshold for Mental Health provision continues to be high however this continues to be addressed.

Members expressed concern about paragraph 3.3.1 of the cover report that states:-

"The CCG representative on the Domestic Abuse Commissioning Review group changed due to capacity, at the time a meeting was held with CCG commissioners and Mental health providers to explore how to improve access and more recently as a result of no ongoing funding for domestic abuse provision on 9th February 2017 Jo York (Director of Better Care, Portsmouth CCG) met with Rachael Dalby (Director of Regulatory Services and Community Safety) and Bruce Marr to consider how CCG can improve their response and commitment to supporting victims of domestic abuse in line with NICE guidance."

Members said that if the CCG was not going to provide any funding for domestic abuse, they had concerns about the efficiency of the revised Domestic Abuse Strategy going forward.

In response to further queries

- Mr Marr said that after the report from the scrutiny panel went to Cabinet, there were further challenges to contend with. Funding cuts led to a review of provision. The outcome is that Portsmouth City Council will employ 7 IDVAs (independent domestic violence advocates) who support those most at risk which will be funded by the Local Authority via cash limits and funding from the Children and Social Care portfolio. Portsmouth City Council and the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner have started the process to jointly recommission the refuge and outreach provision. Funding levels for this have not yet been finalised.

- Mr Marr explained that there was some available lottery funding - until March 2018 to deliver Up2U, the City's bespoke programme to work with perpetrators of domestic abuse. Most of the money would go to fund staff. 3.5 extra staff would be employed and will work in Fareham, Havant and Gosport as well as Portsmouth
- Mr Marr said that Portsmouth receives income from the Police and Crime Commissioner of £60k for 2016/17 - £40k was used for an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) plus £20k for Up2U. There will be some funding for 2018, but how much and for how long is not yet known
- Mr Marr said it is difficult to quantify the effect of the funding cuts.
- Mr Marr explained that only around 40% of victims of domestic abuse share their experience outside family and friends. Sometimes the domestic abuse is not considered by the victim as being their priority need. Substance misuse and housing are often considered to be more urgent. Consequently victims of domestic abuse may already be accessing services but not necessarily in relation to domestic abuse. The intention is to train officers to be aware of issues other than just the priority need and the revised strategy supports co-location of services.

Members were very concerned that no funding was being made available from the CCG who are one of the key players. Mr Marr confirmed that funding was mostly being made available from the LA via cash limits from the Children and Social Care portfolio with a contribution from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner but confirmed that no funding was being made available by the CCG.

Members of Scrutiny Management Panel wanted to add a recommendation to the report to say

"the Panel is disappointed at Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for refusing to provide ongoing funding for domestic abuse provision and asks the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety to write to the organisation expressing the Panel's unhappiness at the situation"

Advice was given that this had been brought as an information report and as such, there had been no provision on the agenda to give notice that a recommendation (effectively a new proposal) would be considered. The City Solicitor advised against proceeding on this basis. A debate followed after which in light of the City Solicitor's advice

It was proposed by Councillor Simon Bosher, seconded by Councillor Ian Lyon that a further meeting of the Scrutiny Management Panel be convened to formally adopt the recommendation that the SMP wished to add to the report (as set out above).

Upon being put to the vote this was LOST.

It was proposed by Councillor Darren Sanders, seconded by Councillor Tom Wood that the recommendation the SMP wished to add to the report (as set out earlier) be put to the vote immediately.

This was CARRIED.

Upon the recommendation set out earlier being put to the vote this was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the Panel

- (1) notes the report**
- (2) is disappointed at Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for refusing to provide ongoing funding for domestic abuse provision and asks the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety to write to the organisation expressing the Panel's unhappiness at the situation.**

The meeting concluded at 5.30 pm.

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Chair

Agenda Item 4

Briefing paper for: Scrutiny Management Panel

From:

- James Hill, Interim Director of Property and Housing
- Meredydd Hughes, Assistant Director of Property and Housing (Repairs & Maintenance)
- Ian Collins, Emergency Planning (Civil Contingencies Manager)

At a meeting of Full Council on 21 March 2017, the Notice of Motion set out below (that was proposed by Councillor Steve Pitt and Seconded by Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson) was referred to Scrutiny Management Panel for consideration.

Notice of Motion - Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service

"This Council welcomes Hampshire Fire Service's adoption of changes proposed by the Fire Brigades Union, to the pre-determined attendance (PDA) procedures for tall building fires in Portsmouth.

The previous policy, implemented following last year's Hampshire Risk Review, meant that Southsea's Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) was not on the PDA for tall buildings fires. As a result, there were occasions when Portsmouth was dependent on Southampton's ALP to provide cover, whilst Southsea's remained at the fire station.

At the time of the Risk Review, this Council was warned that such an issue would arise but decided to ignore the FBU's concerns.

In order to provide a solution, the FBU proposed crewing changes to their management, which have now been fully implemented, enabling Southsea's ALP to be deployed in almost all circumstances.

The council wishes to thank the FBU for its sensible and pragmatic approach to solving the problem, and regrets that it did not listen to the city's FBU representatives, when they brought a deputation to Full Council last year.

The council recognises that the solution of 'triple-jumping' a crew onto the ALP is not ideal and thanks the FBU for proposing changes to its established working practices, which have enabled this to be possible, in order to better guarantee their safety and the safety of the people of Portsmouth.

Finally, this council wishes to thank Hampshire Fire Service management for agreeing to make the changes proposed by the FBU and for working constructively with them to implement the new policy."

Property and Housing Directorate and Emergency Planning Response

To assist the Scrutiny Management Panel with its deliberations and report back to Full Council, the following information is presented.

Portsmouth City's 'High Rise' Stock Profile

The city of Portsmouth remains one of the most densely populated cities outside London but is a relatively 'flat' city. The recent high rise developments in and around Gun wharf Quays are providing residential units for the private ownership/rent, Portsmouth University has built and refurbished high rise student accommodation around the City Centre and the Local Authority owned high rise accommodation were predominantly built in the 1960's.

Stock Profile Local Authority Owned Stock

The local authority remains a significant social housing landlord with a retained stock of approximately 14,809 units of housing located around the city and approximately a third of the stock located within the Havant Borough Council boundary.

Focussing on flats, the City Council owns

- 1,096 blocks of flats
 - 40 are blocks of flats which would be deemed to be 'high rise'
 - 27 are blocks of flats between 6 - 9 storey's (exceed 18 metres)
 - 13 are 'tower blocks' which are 10 storey's and above (exceed 30 metres), the highest of the tower blocks are 24 storeys high (approx. 75 Meters)
 - The other 1,056 blocks of flats are low rise blocks of five storeys and below (Less than approx. 18 Metres)

All the high rise blocks of flats are located within the Portsmouth area

See Appendix A for a list of the 40 blocks of flats

Private Sector

Throughout the City there are privately owned blocks of flats some new build and others arising from refurbished buildings, for example:

- No.1 Gunwharf Quays - 28 storeys
- Unite Student Halls of Residence, Greetham Street - 25 storeys
- VIVID (housing association) flats Southdown View, Hilsea - 6 storeys

Approach to Fire Safety (Local Authority High Rise Flats)

All our high rise blocks are built with 'compartmentation.' This is designed to contain the fire in the flat or area it has started and minimises spread throughout the building.

All flats in high rise and tower blocks have safety measures which include hard wire smoke detectors in all dwellings. Some blocks have within the communal areas have active fire safety measures to assist in the event of a fire including partial communal alarm systems, dry risers, emergency lighting or Automatic Opening Vents (AOVs) that activate communal windows to open in the event of a fire and enable smoke to disperse.

The routes to enable the fire service to deal with a fire are protected and those routes are also designed to provide a safe means of escape if an evacuation is necessary.

Each flat property entrance door is a fire door designed to contain a fire for at least 30 minutes, providing 1 hour fire protection to other properties if a fire starts in a property. The doors in the communal corridors and stairwells are also fire doors designed to contain a fire for at least 30 mins. The combination of these fire safety measures provides time to enable the fire to be contained and fought by the fire service and prevent fire spread.

The local authority undertakes fire risk assessments and has a policy to review fire risk assessments every three years. All the high rise blocks of flats have fire risk assessments in place.

Partnership Working

The local authority housing team has always enjoyed a strong partnership with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services (HFRS).

HFRS is the enforcing authority for the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Property and Housing regularly meet with HFRS at least twice a year to discuss its fire strategy and progress of plans to undertake FRAs or associated work.

PCC meetings with HFRS are also an opportunity to discuss current fire safety guidance, learning from fires in Portsmouth and the rest of the country, this close working relationship will continue.

There are other informal meetings with HFRS to discuss any operational issues including familiarisation with our high rise blocks of flats.

The services work together to hold community events and running practice fire exercises in high rise buildings.

The services also undertake joint partnership inspections to review fire safety measures.

Construction (High rise flats)

All Local Authority purpose built blocks of flats were constructed in compliance with the building and fire safety regulations appropriate at the time of construction. As

such the properties will contain fire safety measures providing fire separation and containment with protected fire escape routes.

Property and housing blocks have had occasional instances of fires within flats over the past few years, in every instance the fire has been contained within the property where the fire commenced, all other neighbouring residents have not been impacted whilst the fire service fights the fire.

Some blocks of flats have had cladding installed as part of refurbishment schemes; Property and Housing Service. Two blocks of flats (Horatia House and Leamington House) have an Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) Cladding System. This has been tested and failed the current test. A joint partnership inspection assessed the measures in place and concluded the residents could remain in residence as the cladding is removed.

Stay Put Policy

In common with all landlords of purpose built blocks of flats we advise residents

If there is a fire in your flat you should;

- Leave and evacuate the property
- Close all doors behind you
- Use the stairs and never use the lift when evacuating the building as the fire may cause a power failure trapping you inside
- Get out and stay out, never assume that someone else has phoned the fire service so call 999.

If the fire is elsewhere in the block you should;

- Close your doors and windows
- Stay put unless advised by the fire service or your property begins to become affected by the fire,
- If the fire service needs to fully evacuate the building they will knock door to door.
- Your tower block has designed to delay the spread of fire, so you will be safe in your home

HFRS endorsed this approach at a public meeting on the 27th June 2017 confirming that the measures in place enable them to tackle fire and also to control and manage evacuation if that proves necessary.

Smoke Detectors

All Property and housing dwellings, including those of leaseholders, will be fitted with at least one mains operated smoke detector with a battery back-up on each dwelling floor level as appropriate which will be replaced in accordance with manufacturer's instructions by the expiry date.

This approach complements the 'stay put policy' and avoids unnecessary and uncontrolled evacuation.

Grenfell Tower Tragedy

The Grenfell Tower tragedy has brought into sharp focus fire safety measures in high rise residential blocks both in the private and public sector.

During the weeks that followed the tragedy, the City Council's approach to fire safety has been tested, as has the emergency response arrangements; at one point the Senior Management Team, the Emergency Response Centre and a Rest Centre was activated to consider the potential evacuation of two tower blocks that have ACM cladding systems. Whilst that proved unnecessary, the council's Emergency Response Plan was activated and its associated procedures put in place, including engaging in a multi-agency teleconference with the Local Resilience Forum, to ensure partner agencies were informed and prepared should the situation have changed.

The investigations at Grenfell Tower are not complete and undoubtedly there will continue to be learning that all landlords can take from the tragedy.

We will continue to build on our current working arrangements to enhance and improve them and our partnership arrangements are well positioned to respond.

Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services

A coherent fire safety approach relies on three key elements:

1. The landlords measures to ensure the
 - a. property meets the required standards for fire safety
 - b. the work with their tenants/occupiers to ensure they understand their responsibilities in how they use the property and understand the approach to dealing with fires
2. The occupiers responsibilities for their own safety and use of the property
3. The Fire services ability to respond to the fire quickly and with the right equipment

All are underpinned with the strong partnership approach between the key services and agencies.

Whilst it is for the HFRS to understand the levels of resourcing and equipment they need to provide an effective response in the City to any incident of fire, our fire safety approach for the local authority high rise blocks (and particularly the stay put policy) depends on their ability to respond quickly and with the right equipment.

Appendix A

List of the 40 High Rise Blocks of Flats

Number of Storeys		Block Name
6		CROWN COURT (1-24)
		CROWN COURT (41-58)
		HAWTHORN CRESCENT (475-545 ODDS)
		KING ALBERT COURT (1-30)
		LORDS COURT (1-18)
		PERTH HOUSE (1-34)
		ROSLYN HOUSE (1-54)
		WESTMINSTER PLACE (1-78)
		WIMPOLE COURT (25-42)
		ILLUSTRIOUS HOUSE (1-16)
7		BLACKWOOD HOUSE (1-26)
		ESTELLA ROAD (BLOCK E 1-35)
		ESTELLA ROAD (BLOCK F 36-63)
		ESTELLA ROAD (BLOCK G 64-105)
		ESTELLA ROAD (BLOCK H 106-133)
		ESTELLA ROAD (BLOCK I 134-161)
		ESTELLA ROAD (BLOCK J 162-189)

**GRAFTON STREET (BLOCK A 2-70
EVENS)**

**GRAFTON STREET (BLOCK B 72-
126 EVENS)**

**GRAFTON STREET (BLOCK C 128-
182 EVENS)**

**GRAFTON STREET (BLOCK D 184-
238 EVENS)**

GROSVENOR HOUSE (1-54)

WINGFIELD STREET (1-71 ODDS)

8 BRISBANE HOUSE (1-30)

DARWIN HOUSE (1-45)

GRENVILLE HOUSE (1-30)

OMEGA HOUSE (1-80)

11 WILMCOTE HOUSE (1-113)

12 COPPERFIELD HOUSE (1-88)

PICKWICK HOUSE (1-88)

18 BARKIS HOUSE (1-136)

EDGBASTON HOUSE (1-136)

HANDSWORTH HOUSE (1-153)

HORATIA HOUSE (1-136)

LEAMINGTON HOUSE (1-136)

NICKLEBY HOUSE (1-136)

TIPTON HOUSE (1-136)

20 MILL GATE HOUSE (1-76)

21 SARAH ROBINSON HOUSE (1-120)

24 LADYWOOD HOUSE (1-136)

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