



---

# NOTICE OF MEETING

---

## SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT PANEL

**FRIDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 3.00 PM**

## CONFERENCE ROOM A - CIVIC OFFICES

Telephone enquiries to Vicki Plytas on 023 9283 4058  
Email: [vicki.plytas@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk)

## AGENDA

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
- 2 **Declarations of Members' Interests**
- 3 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 July 2017 (Pages 3 - 8)**

**RECOMMENDED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 July 2017 be**

**confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

**4 Work Programme 2017/18 for the themed scrutiny panels (Pages 9 - 12)**

The panel is asked to note that the Traffic Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel will continue with its allocated topic - "Review of general parking issues in Portsmouth with a view to considering alternative strategies"

The panel is asked to consider the topics put forward for review by the themed panels (as attached) to determine the work programme for the Municipal Year for the remaining three themed scrutiny panels.

An item will be included on future agendas (as and when appropriate) to consider any new topics put forward for review by themed scrutiny panels.

Chairs of each themed scrutiny panel (or the Chair's representative on that panel) are invited to the meeting to provide more information on the topic/s their panel has put forward.

**RECOMMENDED that the Scrutiny Management Panel**

- (1) Notes that the TECS scrutiny panel will continue with its review of general parking issues in Portsmouth with a view to considering alternative strategies**
- (2) Determines the work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year for each of the remaining three themed scrutiny panels.**
- (3) Considers the request from the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel members to review as a matter of urgency the outcomes of the recommendations made by the review into "Hospital Discharge Arrangements in Portsmouth" undertaken in 2013/14**

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.

# Agenda Item 3

## SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT PANEL

Minutes of the meeting of the Scrutiny Management Panel held on Wednesday, 26 July 2017 at 5.30 pm at the Civic Offices, Portsmouth

### Present

Councillor Scott Harris (in the Chair)

Councillors Alicia Denny  
Ben Dowling  
Colin Galloway  
Steve Hastings  
Stephen Morgan  
Gemma New  
Darren Sanders  
Tom Wood

### Officers

James Hill - Interim Director of Housing and Property  
Ian Collins, Emergency Planning (Civil Contingencies Manager)

Meredydd Hughes, Assistant Director of Property and Housing (Repairs and Maintenance)  
Robert Parkin, Deputy City Solicitor

### HFRA Representatives

Andy Bowers and Mick Thompson

### FBU Representatives

Nigel McCullen, Mark Chapman and Gary Jackson

## 10. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 1)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including Andy Bowers and Mick Thompson from the HFRA (Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority) and Mark Chapman, Nigel McCullen and Gary Jackson from the Fire Brigade Union (FBU).

Councillors Frank Jonas and Lee Hunt were in attendance in the public gallery.

Councillor Darren Sanders declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in agenda item 4 in that his Mother lives in Horatia House, one of the high rise residences in Portsmouth.

## 11. Apologies for Absence (AI 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ian Lyon. Councillor Alicia Denny attended as his standing deputy and apologised for lateness.

**12. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 April 2017 (AI 3)**

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

**13. Notice of Motion Referral from 21 March Council Meeting - Hampshire Fire Service (AI 4)**

(TAKE IN BRIEFING PAPER)

A Notice of Motion had been on the agenda of the 21 March 2017 Council meeting and had been referred to this Panel for debate. The Panel is requested to make a recommendation back to Council for adoption once it has deliberated on the issues raised.

The Chair, Councillor Scott Harris, invited Councillor Steve Pitt to make his deputation which he then did. Councillor Pitt spoke in favour of the panel sending the original wording of the Notice of Motion back to Council for approval.

The Chair thanked Councillor Pitt for his deputation.

The Chair then invited James Hill, Interim Director of Property and Housing to summarise the briefing paper that had been previously circulated.

Mr Hill set the context of the City Council owned high rise flats saying that Portsmouth is a relatively flat city and that Local Authority owned high rise flats were predominantly built in the 1960s. Appendix A lists the 40 blocks of flats deemed to be "high rise" that the City Council owns.

Mr Hill drew members' attention to the section of the briefing paper headed "Approach to Fire Safety (Local Authority High Rise Flats)". This set out the fire safety measures designed to assist in the event of a fire. He said that the local authority undertakes fire risk assessments and has a policy to review fire risk assessments every three years. He confirmed that all the high rise blocks of flats have fire risk assessments in place.

Mr Hill mentioned the section on Partnership Working and said that Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services (HFRS) is the enforcing authority for the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Property and Housing regularly meet with HFRS to discuss fire strategy and progress of plans to undertake Fire Risk Assessments (FRAs) or associated work.

The meetings also provide an opportunity to discuss current guidance. Services work together to hold community events and run practice fire exercises in high rise buildings. Services also undertake joint partnership inspections to review fire safety measures.

Mr Hill confirmed that Local Authority purpose built blocks of flats were constructed in compliance with the building and fire safety regulations appropriate at the time of construction. Some blocks of flats have since had

cladding installed as part of refurbishment schemes. Horatia House and Leamington House have both had cladding added. This is made from Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) Cladding System which has now been tested and failed the current test. However a joint partnership inspection assessed the measures in place and concluded that residents could remain in residence as the cladding is removed.

Mr Hill then provided information to the Panel about the "Stay Put Policy" and advised that HFRS endorsed the stay put approach.

With regard to the Grenfell Tower tragedy, Mr Hill explained that inevitably this had brought into sharp focus fire safety measures in high rise blocks both in the private and public sector. He said that PCC's approach to fire safety had been tested since that incident as well as the emergency response arrangements. Actions had been taken as outlined in the briefing paper to ensure that if necessary, measures were in place to evacuate the two tower blocks that had ACM cladding. Mr Hill said that PCC would continue to build on current working arrangements and said that our partnership arrangements are well placed to respond in case of fire.

Finally, with regard to Hampshire Fire and Rescue Services, Mr Hill said that a coherent fire safety approach relies on 3 key elements:-

1. The landlords measures to ensure
  - a. The property meets the required standards for fire safety
  - b. they 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 Service's ability to respond to the fire quickly and with the right equipment

The Chair thanked Mr Hill for his briefing.

During discussion, the following matters were clarified

- Although there are regular inspections and discussions with residents, ultimately it is down to residents themselves to behave responsibly and not put themselves or others in danger by for example propping fire doors open. However it would be possible to alarm the doors and this was being considered.
- With regard to the stay put policy, fire alarms do not sound throughout the building as this may create panic and make the problem worse. The policy has been shown to be effective.
- It was confirmed that all new residents are made aware of the fire safety approach and all residents are frequently reminded about what to do in the event of fire. In connection with this, providing information in different languages was being looked at.

Representatives attending the meeting from the Fire Brigade Union (FBU) and the HFRA agreed that there were inaccuracies in the wording of the notice of motion itself. The only occasion when an Aerial Ladder Platform was not available was because there was no crew to man it and in any event the fire was a low rise property so would not have been needed. Matters had now moved on and different practices had been agreed.

Representatives of the FBU and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service said that contrary to what was stated in the Notice of Motion, the ALP has never been taken off the pre-determined attendance (PDA) procedure for tall buildings fires.

With regard to further queries, the following matters were addressed

- In response to a query about fire doors and when these would be fitted, Mr Hill said there was a 7 year programme of works and PCC was engaging with the HFRA over all planned work.
- The Chair confirmed that the feasibility of fitting sprinklers to properties was being looked at.
- The HFRA representatives said they are awaiting the full facts about the Grenfell Fire in relation to a query about whether an even higher Aerial Ladder Platform (ALP) would be necessary in Portsmouth. HFRA representatives said that access was usually gained to high rise properties from the inside which is normally adequate, but lessons learned from the Grenfell fire may change procedures. The Fire Brigade Union representatives agreed that getting an ALP that was capable of reaching higher levels was probably not suitable for Portsmouth as there would be a need to accommodate the longer and wider appliance which may not be possible given the high density of housing in Portsmouth and consequent lack of space. It would depend on how close the appliance could get to the building.
- Mick Thompson of the HFRA said that to date almost all of the local authority blocks over 18 metres high had been inspected and so far only minor discrepancies had been identified.
- The Fire Brigade Union representatives said that there was now an officer in charge of an incident and could determine which appliance should be used. If an ALP was not available at Southsea, there would still be an immediate response but from further away. Both the representatives from the FBU and the HFRA agreed that they wanted to bring in changes together. They said that flexible working was standard practice across the South East.

The Chair thanked the FBU and HFRA representatives and officers for their attendance and contributions.

Councillor Sanders commented that the delay in discussing this Notice of Motion is of concern as it could have been dealt with at the March Council meeting. Councillor Hastings replied that nobody from HFRA or the FBU were able to attend the March Council meeting so it was better that the Motion was referred.

It was proposed by Councillor Scott Harris

Seconded by Councillor Stephen Morgan

that

"Scrutiny Management Panel (SMP) have considered the notice of motion on the 'Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service'.

SMP notes (having heard from representatives of the FBU and Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service) that the ALP has never been taken off the pre-determined attendance (PDA) procedure for tall buildings fires.

SMP notes that the Council as landlord of its own housing, as well as in its private-sector housing regulation role, depends on a strong partnership with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and works with them and other stakeholders including the FBU to promote and maintain fire safety and to continue to be vigilant and seek to plan for the evolving risks and pressures in which they operate. This involves examining for a range of fire safety issues and solutions, beyond ALPs.

SMP welcomes the expertise of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Fire Brigade Union and recognise that they have jointly worked toward a solution in this instance, and strongly encourages the continuation of the strong partnership ethos which characterises the relationships."

Upon being put to the vote, this was CARRIED

**RESOLVED that the response as set out above be referred back to full Council.**

The meeting concluded at 6.30 pm.

---

Councillor Scott Harris  
Chair

This page is intentionally left blank

# Agenda Item 4

## SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT PANEL

### Suggested Topics for Review

2017/2018

#### Economic Development Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel (EDCL)

At the Economic Development, Culture & Leisure Scrutiny Panel (EDCL) held on 15<sup>th</sup> September the following items were put forward for consideration by the Scrutiny Management Panel, in this preferred order:

1. The Port

To receive an update on what is happening at the Commercial Ferry Port, including the city as an attraction/cruise destination, inviting the new Port Manager to attend as well as navy, business and tourism representatives. This would also include the wider 'port' such as Flathouse Quay. To investigate the importance of the port to the local economy and the panel would invite key businesses to attend, such as MMD.

2. The University of Portsmouth

The effect of having a growing university in the city, to encourage a cohesive relationship between students and residents, to balance perceptions with the economic benefits. This would include links with schools and students from the local area to raise academic expectations and increase the sub-regional skill-base. (It was noted that a previous EDCL review had included the University as a witness in the Volunteering Opportunities review.)

3. Creative Industries

This had been the reserve topic from the previous municipal year, for which the remit had been:

"To look at the economic value of creativity in the city and its potential as a strong growth area. To consider Arts Council funding opportunities and the expanded use of council owned buildings to expand on the success of projects such as the ARTches and to encourage the participation of young people in community arts events."

The panel members wished to stress that all three topics would include the theme of local employment and connecting to investment in jobs in the city.

## **Education Children & Young Persons' Scrutiny Panel (ECYP)**

The ECYP scrutiny panel met on 11 July and agreed to put forward the following topics to SMP:

- (1) School attendance and part time timetables.** To review strategy to improve school attendance. As part of this, the review will look at how children on part time timetables are supported to resume full time attendance as early as possible. It will also consider home schooling, which has doubled over the last few years both in Portsmouth and nationally. It will investigate the reasons why parents are choosing to home educate their children and how their progress and safety can be monitored. The review will also look into how schools deal with complaints from parents about their child's education and **any links with decisions to remove the child from school.**
  
- (2) The council's offer to vulnerable adolescents.** This review will look at the early help and safeguarding support provided to teenagers and their families, and the support for teenagers in care, including young people who go missing. A recent peer review of the early help offer considered that this area could be strengthened; demand for statutory social care services for teenagers has also increased over the last 12 months. The review will look at prevention as well as early help, including education and support in schools around substance misuse and mental health.

## **Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel (HSC)**

This panel met on 14 September 2017 and the Chair drafted the following note concerning its conclusions on the previous topic -"Housing Need and Empty Properties in Portsmouth and the impact of Government Policy"

"Note to Scrutiny Management Panel

This note is to explain the actions taken at this meeting regarding the scrutiny review into housing need in the city and the impact of Government policy on it.

At this meeting, Panel members unanimously decided to suspend the review indefinitely. This was on the advice of the Interim Director of Property and Housing, the Chief Finance Officer for the Housing Department, the Private Sector Housing Manager, the Senior Housing Options Manager and her Deputy.

Their advice was that they did not know whether any or all of the policies outlined in the Housing White Paper earlier this year would be implemented as a result of the General Election. As this paper formed the backbone of Government policy during the review period, they felt this meant the review could not come to any meaningful conclusions as they did not know what impact Government policy would have. They could not offer any date as to when Government would be able to offer any clarity.

Similar advice had been circulated to all Panel members ahead of the meeting for comment. There was none before the Panel met.

The Chair asked Panel colleagues whether a paper on housing need could be presented to Cabinet. Cllrs Denny, Madden and Weymss - the other Panel members present - all said any such paper would not have any meaning as it would not fulfil the terms of the review. On that basis, the Panel unanimously decided to suspend the review indefinitely and start work on the topics presented to you today, subject to your agreement."

The Panel put forward the following topics to SMP:-

- (1) Provision of Learning & Disability Accommodation** - This review will look to evaluate the current provision of learning and disability accommodation for adults and gain an understanding of the potential to extend the current provision and develop an accommodation offer for adults with a wider range of social and health care needs. As part of the review, the panel will consider whether supported housing improves outcomes for people with a learning disability, whether the number of young people with a learning disability is increasing, whether demand for this type of housing will increase and whether this model of housing could be used to help others with a support need.
- (2) Provision of Domiciliary Care** - The scope for this review has not been fully worked up as it was put forward at the meeting itself. The Panel suggested this review could look at how serious the domiciliary care problem is and whether it is an area that PCC should consider taking "in-house". The review could also look into domiciliary care provision for those discharged from hospital.

**The Panel would also like to recommend that Scrutiny Management Panel urgently reviews the outcomes of the recommendations made by the review into "Hospital Discharge Arrangements in Portsmouth" undertaken in 2013/14.**

#### **Transport Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel (TECS)**

The SMP is asked to note that this Panel will continue their review "**General parking issues in Portsmouth with a view to considering alternative strategies**"

This page is intentionally left blank