



# NOTICE OF MEETING

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## **CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS**

**MONDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 4.30 PM**

## **COUNCIL CHAMBER - THE GUILDHALL**

Telephone enquiries to Anna Martyn - Tel 023 9283 4870  
Email: [anna.martyn@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:anna.martyn@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

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

### **Information with regard to public access due to Covid precautions**

- Attendees will be requested to undertake an asymptomatic/ lateral flow test within 48 hours of the meeting.
- If symptomatic you must not attend and self-isolate following the stay at home guidance issued by Public Health England.
- All attendees are recommended to wear a face covering while moving around within the Guildhall.
- Attendees will be encouraged to take a temperature check on arrival.
- Although it will no longer be a requirement attendees may choose to keep a social distance and take opportunities to prevent the spread of infection
- Hand sanitiser is provided at the entrance and throughout the Guildhall. All attendees are encouraged to make use of hand sanitiser on entry to the Guildhall and are requested to follow the one way system in place.
- Attendees are encouraged book in to the venue (QR code). An NHS test and trace log will be retained and maintained for 21 days for those that cannot or have not downloaded the app.
- Those not participating in the meeting and wish to view proceedings are encouraged to do so remotely via the livestream link.

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## **Membership**

Councillor Darren Sanders (Cabinet Member)

Councillor Cal Corkery

Councillor Scott Payter-Harris

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(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)

**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.**

## **AGENDA**

### **Meeting information: Risk assessment for the Council Chamber**

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Declarations of interest**
- 3 Management of energy provision in local authority housing whilst void  
(Pages 13 - 32)**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the report is to recommend an improved system of managing the issue of gas and electricity supplies in local authority social housing dwellings when the property is void. This report will highlight the benefits a new system would offer tenants and the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

#### **RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member**

- 1. Recognises the benefits for tenants from a standardised process for the management of gas and electricity bills when Local Authority Housing properties change tenants.**
  - 2. Notes the positive impact of the pilot with Utilita which includes, providing a clear and concise service to tenants, and that it saves money, staff resource time and generates a small income.**
  - 3. Agrees the pilot is extended to the full housing stock.**
  - 4. Delegates to the Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services to undertake all necessary and procedural actions to formalise the process for void energy management with a single supplier in the long term, undertaking a suitable procurement process if and when required.**
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- 4 Update on assistance for people to secure a private rented home, to reduce homelessness and housing need in Portsmouth (Pages 33 - 54)**

### Purpose

To provide an update on assistance for people to secure a private rented home, to reduce homelessness and housing need in Portsmouth. This includes an update on previously agreed actions agreed in January 2020.

### **RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member**

- 1. Approve that the 0% rent deposit loan scheme pilot is no longer suitable for delivery.**
  - 2. Subject to funding, proceed with the development of the bond scheme, piloted over the next 12 months, as one element in a range of options offered to landlords to increase access to the private rented sector.**
  - 3. Submit a request for use of up to £85,600 from reserves to fund the pilot of the bond scheme for one year.**
  - 4. Recognise the work of the pilot PRS Access team in helping over 70 families and 123 single people to access the private rental sector. Approve the completion of the pilot to understand if a longer-term service can be sustainably provided.**
- 5 Update on the actions from the Private Rental Sector Strategy 2021-2026 (Pages 55 - 66)**

### Purpose

To provide an update on the progress of actions agreed in the Private Rental Sector Strategy 2021-2026.

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