



NOTICE OF MEETING

HOUSING & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

FRIDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 1.00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER - THE GUILDHALL, PORTSMOUTH

Telephone enquiries to Anna Martyn Tel: 023 9283 4870

Email: 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.

Public health guidance for staff and the public due to Winter coughs, colds and viruses, including Covid-19

- Following the government announcement 'Living with Covid-19' made on 21 February and the end of universal free testing from 1 April, attendees are no longer required to undertake any asymptomatic/ lateral flow test within 48 hours of the meeting; however, we still encourage attendees to follow the public health precautions we have followed over the last two years to protect themselves and others including vaccination and taking a lateral flow test should they wish.
- We strongly recommend that attendees should be double vaccinated and have received any boosters they are eligible for.
- If unwell we encourage you not to attend the meeting but to stay at home. Updated government guidance from 1 April advises people with a respiratory infection, a high temperature and who feel unwell, to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature. From 1 April, anyone with a positive Covid-19 test result is still being advised to follow this guidance for five days, which is the period when you are most infectious.
- We encourage all attendees to wear a face covering while moving around crowded areas of the Guildhall.
- Although not a legal requirement, attendees are strongly encouraged to keep a social distance and take opportunities to prevent the spread of infection by following the 'hands, face, space' and 'catch it, kill it, bin it' advice that protects us from coughs, colds and winter viruses, including Covid-19.
- 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.
- Those not participating in the meeting and wish to view proceedings are encouraged to do so remotely via the livestream link.

Membership

Councillor Kirsty Mellor (Chair)
Councillor Stuart Brown
Councillor Graham Heaney

Councillor Leo Madden
Councillor Scott Payter-Harris
Councillor Linda Symes

Standing Deputies

Councillor Dave Ashmore
Councillor Lewis Gosling
Councillor Ian Holder

Councillor Abdul Kadir
Councillor Gemma New
Councillor Judith Smyth

(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

AGENDA

Meeting information: Risk assessment for Council Chamber

Apologies for absence

Declarations of interest

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24 March 2022 (Pages 5 - 8)

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the previous meeting on 24 March 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

Review into carers and respite (Pages 9 - 10)

To agree a scoping document for a review into carers and respite.

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.

Whilst every effort is made to webcast this meeting, should technical or other difficulties occur, the meeting will continue without being webcast via the Council's website.

Coronavirus Risk Assessment for the Council Chamber, Guildhall

Date: 1 April 2022 (based on Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19, 1 April 2022)

Review date: Ongoing

Author: Lynda Martin, Corporate Health and Safety Manager, Portsmouth City Council

Coronavirus Risk Assessment for the Council Chamber, Guildhall

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|--|
| Manager's Name and Job Title completing Risk Assessment: | Lynda Martin Corporate Health and Safety Manager | Risk Assessment Dept: | Corporate Services | Date: | 1 April 2022 | Signature: | |
| | | Location: | Council Chamber, Guildhall | | | | |

| Hazard | Who could be harmed and how | All controls required | How controls will be checked | Confirmed all in place or further action required |
|--|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Risk of exposure to Covid-19 virus - Ventilation | Staff, contractors and attendees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no longer capacity limits for the Guildhall Chamber. • We encourage all attendees to wear a face covering when moving around crowded areas of the Guildhall and the council chamber. • The mechanical ventilation system works efficiently and the South Special Rooms Supply and Extract fans are fully operational during times when the Council Chamber is in use. • Pedestal fans - positioned in each of the wing areas and along the back wall behind the pillars, maximum speed and modulation setting. | Staff will ensure ventilation system and fans are operational. | In place |
| Risk of transmission of virus - Risk mitigation | Staff, contractors and attendees | <p>The Guildhall has the following measures in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face Coverings – as per government guidance, we encourage you to continue to wear a face covering whilst in the venue & crowded places especially when walking around the building. • Enhanced Sanitisation & Cleaning – we will carry out enhanced cleaning procedures between meetings and we encourage you to sanitise your hands on entry and regularly throughout your visit at the sanitisation points provided. | The Guildhall Trust and PCC Facilities Team to implement and monitor. | In place |
| Risk of transmission of virus - Hygiene and Prevention | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated government guidance from 1 April advises people with a respiratory infection, a high temperature and who feel unwell, to stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature. From 1 April, anyone with a positive COVID-19 test result is being advised to follow this guidance for five days, which is the period when you are most infectious. • Although not a legal requirement attendees are strongly encouraged to keep a social distance and take opportunities to prevent the spread of infection by following the 'hands, face, space' and 'catch it, kill it, bin it' advice that also protects us from other winter viruses. • Wash hands for 20 seconds using soap and water or hand sanitiser. • Maintain good hygiene particularly when entering or leaving. • Hand sanitiser and wipes will be located in the meeting room. • No refreshments will be provided. Attendees should bring their own water bottles/drinks. • All attendees should bring and use their own pens/stationery. • Attendees are no longer required to undertake an asymptomatic/ lateral flow test within 48 hours of the meeting however we still encourage attendees to follow the Public Health precautions we have followed over the last two years to protect themselves and others including vaccination and taking a lateral flow test should they wish. It is strongly recommended that attendees should be double vaccinated and have received a booster. | The Guildhall Trust and PCC Facilities Team to implement and monitor. | In place |
| Financial Risk | Staff, contractors and attendees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council meeting may need to be cancelled at short notice if the Covid-19 situation changes due to local outbreaks, local sustained community transmission, or a serious and imminent threat to public health. • Technology in place to move to virtual council meeting if required and permitted by legislation. | Financial commitments minimised wherever possible. | In place |

Agenda Item 3

HOUSING & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting of the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel held remotely on Thursday 24 March 2022 at 10 am

Present

Councillor Cal Corkery (in the Chair)
Stuart Brown
Lynda Symes

Steve Groves - Head of Building Maintenance
Meredydd Hughes - Assistant Director, Buildings

5. Apologies (AI 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

6. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

Councillor Corkery declared a personal interest as he is a Portsmouth City Council (PCC) tenant.

7. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 March 2022 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

8. Review into "Procedures and performance of the council and housing associations in relation to response repairs and maintenance" (AI 4)

Councillor Corkery welcomed those present and invited comments on the review. Members thought the review gave a very fair reflection of the meetings and conversations that had taken place. They were keen that a watching brief should be kept on issues raised so that they were not forgotten. A follow-up report could be made formally or informally and the relevant ward councillors involved.

Members considered the recommendations.

Recommendation 1 - Councillor Corkery thanked officers involved in the review for their work. Democratic Services will draft a letter so that the Leader and Chief Executive can formally thank officers.

Recommendations 2 and 3 - Officers mentioned the Major Cities initiative that Portsmouth City Council (PCC) used to participate in. PCC met the housing departments of other local authorities of a similar size though they faced different issues due to geographical factors. Paul Fielding (Assistant Director, Housing) and Kevin Beagley (Housing Enabling Officers) meet housing associations regularly; future discussions will cover Repairs & Maintenance and include pay and green building technology issues. Although organisations face similar challenges they may adopt solutions tailored to their needs.

PCC is a leader in green technology and has its own in-house expertise with the Energy Team. Officers are meeting Highbury College today to develop

practical educational courses for young people to train to install, for example, solar panels and ground source heat pumps. The training will kickstart work around Passivhaus technology and zero carbon emissions. Green technology and carbon reduction are built into the annual cycle of contractors' plans and are part of asset management for the Housing Revenue Account. Housing invest in green technology and lead the way. Their work dovetails with that of the private sector. PCC has frameworks of contractors and funding to help private householders pay for measures such as insulation of external render.

The Green Deal initiative had not been very successful as there were a lack of contractors and householders could not see the benefits as they had to pay back money they had saved on fuel bills. The government is investing money through the LAD (Local Authority Delivery) scheme to improve the energy efficiency of low-income households; this is making a big impact. £40m has been awarded to Portsmouth and its partnership of local authorities. PCC has helped 1,400 households across the consortium, half of which were in Portsmouth. The LAD covers a vast range of work. PCC vets supply chains to ensure they do what they are supposed to. The Chancellor's spring statement of 23 March gave another £2m through the removal of VAT on energy efficiency works. PCC has a key part to play in the local economy and uses local contractors to deliver the work. Councillor Corkery noted green technology will become more and more important.

Recommendation 4 - Officers mentioned the guidance leaflet on DIY and asbestos advice recently produced by Housing for tenants. Housing is mindful of the need for tenants to know how to use appliances in their property such as stopcocks and heating when they start tenancies. Improving instructions means residents can be more self-sufficient and do not need to call out Housing staff or contractors, thereby reducing demand down the line.

Recommendation 5 - The Charter for Social Housing Residents: Social Housing White Paper (published in 2020) places a duty on councils to demonstrate how they engage with residents. The Head of Local Authority Housing is working on resident engagement. As noted in the review, residents often prefer giving feedback via a phone call rather than in the presence of contractors.

Recommendation 6 - Members agreed to change the recommendation from "To resume the residents' meetings for council tenants that used to be held before Covid" to "To continue to provide residents with opportunities to give feedback and engage with housing services" because the earlier version is now out of date. There are focus groups for resident, for example, for repairs or technical issues. However, officers said residents increasingly prefer different ways of engaging as they do not always want to attend meetings, which tend to attract the same people each time. Some residents are happy engaging by email or phone. Housing is now more flexible in how it engages with residents. Officers agreed they need to try to engage with a wider demographic as some residents do not have a voice. Minority groups may be less likely to come forward if there are issues. Members said widening engagement could be a joint effort between them and officers. Officers

requested members to let them know if they are aware of residents who are not being heard and will try to engage with them.

Recommendation 7 - members agreed with the recommendation.

Although the panel may have a different membership in the next municipal year, members suggested possible topics for the next review as a basis for future discussion. The panel's remit covers social care as well as housing so members suggested a social care topic as recent reviews have been housing related. Suggestions were:

- Examining the effectiveness of social care in the pandemic and the ability to deliver social care.
- Developments like Patey Court, Highgrove Lodge or Temple Court where residents live independently but near each other, thereby preventing isolation or carers having to drive long distances, and also providing economies of scale for carers and a sense of community for residents.
- Co-housing - community housing schemes led by groups rather than local authorities or housing associations; the housing is self-contained with some shared spaces and facilities.

Councillor Corkery thanked those present for their involvement in the review.

The meeting concluded at 10.35 am.

Councillor Cal Corkery
Chair

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Agenda Item 4

HOUSING & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL Draft Scoping Document

Working title

Review into the provision of breaks/respice for informal carers, particularly those who care for someone with dementia.

Objectives

The review will consider the provision of respice for informal carers, especially respice for dementia care.

Witnesses

Possible witnesses are:

- Andy Biddle - Director of Adult Care
- Clare Rachwal - Deputy Head of Service for Market Development and Community Engagement
- Informal carers
- External organisations such as voluntary and community sector and / or care agencies

Timeline

- Mid to late Sept - agree scoping document and timeline
- Mid to late Oct - one or two meetings with informal carers (in person and / or virtual)
- Early Nov to early Dec - one or two meetings with more formal providers of respice such as agencies and voluntary organisations
- January to February - any other meetings if needed
- Early March - sign off

The scoping document can be revised throughout the review.

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