

## **HOUSING & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL**

Minutes of the meeting of the Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel held on Tuesday, 21 February 2017 at 11.00 am in the executive meeting room, floor 3 of the Guildhall, Portsmouth.

### **Present**

Councillor Darren Sanders (in the Chair)

Councillors Jennie Brent  
Leo Madden

#### **6. Apologies for absence (AI 1)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Frank Jonas (on other council business), Gemma New and Alicia Denny. Standing Deputy David Tompkins was in attendance.

#### **7. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)**

There were no declarations.

#### **8. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2016 (AI 3)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2016 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

#### **9. Current review: Housing Need and Empty Properties in Portsmouth and the impact of Government Policy on them (AI 4)**

Selina Crocombe and Toby Ayling from the Planning Policy team gave members a power-point presentation on the Role of Planning Policy in establishing Housing Need. The slides are attached to the minutes.

In summary, there is a strong demand in Portsmouth, and the surrounding areas, for both market and affordable housing. There is a need to provide a type and range of dwellings. The larger sites provide the greatest scope for all types of development.

Members requested further information regarding the number of housing developments which are currently in the pipeline. Toby agreed to follow this up.

Steve Macer, Housing Options, explained that there are currently between 1400-1500 persons on the housing waiting list. There are also a lot of people who are not on the list but need housing. Housing Options only see people who have met the criteria to join the list. The council re-house approximately 1100 people a year but many remain on the waiting list. Many senior citizens do not want to move from their properties unless they are capped or in need

of benefits. Many are emotionally attached to their properties. The Homeless Reduction Bill will have an impact for the council in terms of what it will be required to do within the resources available.

Members requested further information regarding how many council properties become vacant each year and whether a breakdown of those on the waiting list could be provided by postcode. Steve agreed to follow this up.

**10. Date of next meeting (AI 5)**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held towards the end of March and that a representative from the Portsmouth and District Private Landlords' Association would be invited to attend.

The meeting concluded at 12.35 pm.

---

Councillor Darren Sanders  
Chair