

Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 18 June 2002

Minutes of the meeting of the **Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee** held on **18 June 2002** when there were present:-

Cllr M G B Starke (Chairman)

Cllr P A Capon
Cllr Mrs T J Capon
Cllr T G Cutmore
Cllr D F Flack

Cllr Mrs H L A Glynn
Cllr T Livings
Cllr C J Lumley
Cllr Mrs M A Starke

OFFICERS ATTENDING

P Warren	Chief Executive
G Woolhouse	Head of Housing Health and Community Care
S Fowler	Head of Administrative and Member Services
S Clarkson	Head of Revenue and Housing Management
T Metcalf	Audit and Process Review Manager
A Coulson	Housing, Client and Strategy Officer
N Bishop	Principal Auditor
S Whitehead	Solicitor
A Wyatt	Committee Administrator

239 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held 16 April 2002 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

240 OVERALL WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Executive, which outlined the 2002/2003 Work Programme for this Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and sought agreement to minor revisions following agreement of the work programme at a previous meeting.

In agreeing the inclusion of a Memorial to former Councillor Mrs Lemon, and the deletion of the footpaths and land drainage matters in Sweyne Park, Members were mindful that the Work Programme was a live document, and as such could be subject to additions, minor change or reprioritisation throughout the year.

Resolved

That the revised work programme, as set out below, be agreed: -

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Prior to the Summer Recess

- Frail Elderly Study
- Best value Review – Emergency Planning
- Extension of Star Partnership
- Feasibility of employing Tenant Liaison Officer
- Memorial for Councillor Mrs. S. J. Lemon

Items to be considered largely after the Summer Recess

- Best Value Review – Community Safety
- Best Value review – Public Regulation, Inspection and Protection

Items to be brought twice yearly to September/October and February/March Committees

- Crime & disorder Reduction Strategy
- Leisure Contract

Items to be brought before June/July and November/December Committees

- Grounds Maintenance Contract

Ongoing Items

- Housing Management Issues
- Matters arising from the agreed Action Plans covering the Best Value Reviews on Housing Strategy and Housing Management

(CEX)

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241 FRAIL ELDERLY HOUSING

The Committee welcomed Roger Sinden, Head of Independent Living and Older People's Services, Essex County Council, and Liz McGranahan, Director of Primary Care and Modernisation, Castle Point & Rochford Primary Care Trust (PCT), who had been invited to attend the meeting to provide input into this Authority's review of Frail Elderly Housing Needs.

By way of Introduction, the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care gave a brief update on the work that had been undertaken by the Council's consultant with regard to the Frail Elderly Housing Needs Strategy.

With the aid of viewfoils, Mr Sinden gave Members a brief presentation outlining the County Council's role in providing services to the Elderly and how it dovetailed with the services offered by other Agencies.

Members questions were then answered on the following matters: -

- Delayed Transfers of Care (Bed Blockers)
- Life Skills Training and Foster Parenting
- Shortage of Nursing Home places
- Financial Assistance and help offered to Carers

The need to avoid creation of a monopoly with the letting of larger contracts for home care services

Members then welcomed Liz McGranahan, who, with the aid of viewfoils, gave a brief presentation on the Primary Care Trusts role in providing services to the Frail Elderly. Following the presentation, Members questions were answered in relation to the following matters:-

- The provision of a Centre in the Castle Point/Rochford Area similar to the Pantiles in Shoeburyness
- The Primary Care Trusts's involvement in cross Authority projects such as a Handyman Scheme, and 'Care Direct'.
- Falls Prevention and Postural Support Schemes

In conclusion, Members thanked both Roger Sinden and Liz McGranahan for their attendance and presentations. It was considered that the Handyman Scheme, and other projects should receive greater publicity through the Council's "Rochford District Matters" Newspaper. It was further suggested that any such projects be brought to the

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attention of the Voluntary Sector, including RAVS.

Turning to the Frail Elderly Needs Study, Members considered the following organisations should be invited to attend future meetings to provide input into the study process

- The Housing and Support partnership
- The Mental Health Trust
- Crossroads (Rochford Branch)
- Age Concern

Resolved

- (1) That The Housing and Support Partnership, The Mental Health Trust, Crossroads and Age Concern be invited to future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide input into the Frail Elderly Needs Study (HHHCC)
- (2) That additional publicity be given to The Handyman Service and similar schemes in future editions of Rochford District Matters. (CPM)

242 COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management which sought approval for a second tranche release of some of the Council properties currently designated for occupation for people of pensionable age.

Noting there had not been any problems as a result of the redesignation of properties in tranche one, Members agreed to Officers proposals, however it was mooted that Officers should also be looking creatively at the issue of under occupation in the Private Sector.

Recommended to the Community Services Committee

That the One-bedroom Aged Person designated flats set out below be released for General Occupation: -

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Shoebury Road, Great Wakering	-	4 one-bedroom flats (2 ground floor and 2 first floor)
	Note	Situated within a block of 6 flats comprising of 4 one-bedroom flats and 2 three-bedroom flats
Evergreens, Barling	-	8 one-bedroom flats (4 ground-floor and 4 first-floor)
	Note	Remotely situated
Rodwells, Little Wakering	-	8 one-bedroom flats (4 ground-floor and 4 first-floor)
	Note	Remotely situated
Sutton Road, Rochford	-	4 one-bedroom flats (2 ground-floor and 2 first-floor)
Warwick Drive, Rochford		2 one-bedroom flats (1 ground-floor and 1 first-floor)
	Note	Part of a development comprising of 3 one-bedroom flats and 1 three-bedroom house. The house and 1 flat being sold
Boulevard, Rochford	-	7 one-bedroom flats (4 ground-floor and 3 first-floor)
	Note	2 blocks of 4 flats – 1 sold, ground-floor properties have own external door
Harris Court, Hockley	-	7 one-bedroom flats (5 ground-floor and 2 first-floor)
	Note	Also, within Harris Court there are 2-bedroom flats – 1 one-bedroom flat and 1 two-bedroom flat have been sold
Shepherds Court, Hockley	-	6 one-bedroom flats (4 ground-floor and 2 first-floor)
	Note	There are also 2 two-bedroom flats in Shepherds Court

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Bardfield Way, Rayleigh	-	11 one-bedroom flats (6 ground floor and 5 first-floor)
	Note	Situated in 2 blocks of flats – 1 first-floor flat being sold – these flats are of the same design as the general purpose flats in Bardfield Way and Hatfield Road
Sudbury Close, Hawkwell	-	15 one-bedroom flats (7 ground-floor and 8 first-floor)
	Note	1 ground-floor flat has been sold – the flats are considered to be remotely situated and in the past have proved difficult to let due to their location

(HRHM)

243 HEALTH AND SAFETY ENFORCEMENT

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care which advised Members on the issues raised by a recent audit of the Council's Health and Safety enforcement function.

Noting the outcome of a recent audit by the Health and Safety Executive Local Authority Unit, and that the report received was only in draft, it was

Resolved

That a further report be brought to this Committee with an action plan once the enforcement report has been finalised, to include details of the resource requirements required to achieve and sustain any improved level of performance specified.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved

That the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 would be disclosed.

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244 AUDIT REPORT

The Committee considered the exempt report of the Chief Executive which drew Members' attention to the completed audit investigation of Housing Rents and provided an update of audit recommendations.

Resolved

That the updated information on the audit recommendations be agreed.
(C Ex)

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Chairman

Date