

ADULTS AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

6 September 2016

PRESENT - Councillor Knowles (in the Chair); Councillors Culley, Kane, Lister, Lyonette, M Nicholson, T Richmond and Storr (8)

APOLOGIES – Councillors D Jones and S Richmond (2)

ABSENT – Councillor Grundy

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillor Mills (1)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Pauline Mitchell, Assistant Director, Housing and Building Services.

AH8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

AH9. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of a meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 21st June, 2016

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

AH10. HOUSING AND PLANNING ACT 2016 – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) advising Members of a number of changes that would affect a number of areas within the housing service as a result of the introduction of the Housing and Planning Act 2016, which had received Royal Assent in May 2016.

It was reported that the Act introduced a number of significant changes to housing and planning in general and particular reference was made to four changes which were being introduced which affected Council housing only, namely the introduction of fixed-term (flexible) tenancies for all new lettings; pay to stay; the charge for vacant higher value Council properties; and the obligation to consider selling vacant higher value Council properties.

The submitted report set out the main principles and implications of each of the four changes and it was reported that, although the Government had indicated that it wanted the changes to be implemented by April 2017 and the legislation had been designed with this in mind, the draft guidance had been delayed and was expected to be published in September/October 2016 at the earliest, which provided uncertainty about the timetable for implementation.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and that further updates be submitted to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee as and when appropriate.

AH11. WORK PROGRAMME – The Director of Neighbourhood Services and Resources submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration

be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2016/17.

It was reported that the work programme was a rolling programme and that it would be updated during the course of the year.

RESOLVED – That the report be received.