
SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL - HOW DO WE GET A BETTER DEAL FOR PRIVATE
SECTOR RENTERS IN SOUTHAMPTON?

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 APRIL 2024

Present: Councillors McEwing, Evemy, Windle and Blackman

Apologies: Councillor Powell-Vaughan

13. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

Apologies were received from Councillor Powell-Vaughan.

14. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 29th February 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

15. **HOW DO WE GET A BETTER DEAL FOR PRIVATE SECTOR RENTERS IN
SOUTHAMPTON? - INQUIRY DRAFT FINAL REPORT**

Mark Pirnie, Scrutiny Manager, Southampton City Council presented his draft report. The contributors to the Inquiry and members of the Panel had been sent a copy prior to its publication.

The Panel, with the consent of the Chair, received comments from representatives of landlords, tenants and the expert advisors.

RESOLVED following a Panel discussion that the final version of the draft report was agreed subject to the following changes:

- Recommendation 3 - That Southampton City Council develops and embeds a range of creative solutions, including the Call B4 You Serve initiative, to work with landlords and tenants in the private rented sector, at the earliest opportunity, to prevent homelessness.
- Recommendation 4 - Commission a private sector housing conditions survey. This is vitally important in developing a scientific basis for understanding housing conditions and targeting enforcement action in a proactive and structured fashion.

Authority is granted to the Scrutiny Manager to amend the final report following consultation with the Chair of the Panel.

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 JULY 2024

Present: Councillors Blackman (Chair), Evemy, Y Frampton, Kloker, Leggett (except part item 9), McManus, Renyard, Stead (except part item 9) and P Baillie
Appointed Member: Rob Sanders

Apologies: Councillors Powell-Vaughan

Also in attendance: Councillor Fielker, Leader of the Council
Councillor Letts, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services

6. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

It was noted that following receipt of the temporary resignation of Councillor Powell-Vaughan from the Committee, the Monitoring Officer, acting under delegated powers, had appointed Councillor P Baillie to replace her for the purposes of this meeting.

7. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Item deferred to the next meeting.

8. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED that the minutes for the Committee meeting held on 20 June, 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

9. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Scrutiny Manager which enabled the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to examine the content of the Forward Plan and to discuss issues of interest or concern with the Executive.

TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

The Committee considered the briefing paper and Cabinet report setting out the Transformation programme.

Councillor Fielker, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members, Andrew Travers, Chief Executive and Executive Directors and James Fleming-Wills, Director of Transformation were present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

The Committee discussed:

- What assurances could be provided ensuring the delivery of the transformation programme was successful now and in the future.
- Capacity within the Council to deliver projects running concurrently.
- What success looks like.
- How innovations and new ways of working being developed through transformation demonstrate the programme is not just a platform for service cuts.
- Steps being taken to ensure that programmes were resilient and not derailed by the loss of key staff members.
- The required level of savings that the Council was confident of delivering by the end of 2025/26 through the transformation programme.
- The expectation of the reduction in posts as a result of the transformation programme.

RESOLVED that a diagram identifying individual project timescales and programme interdependencies is shared with the Committee.

MTFS REBASE 2024/25 to 2027/28

The Committee considered the briefing paper and Cabinet report detailing the Medium Term Financial Strategy Rebase 2024/25 to 2027/28.

Councillor Letts, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services and Mel Creighton, Executive Director of Enabling Services were both present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

The Committee discussed financial support for the transformation programme, levels of reserves and the rebuilding of the Capital Programme.

RESOLVED that, moving forward, the Committee agreed to consider Council finances at each meeting in which the performance of the Transformation Programme is scrutinised.