

Housing Scrutiny Board

30 June, 2015

Summary of Matters Considered at the Board

Report of the Chair, Councillor P Hughes

The Scrutiny Board met on 30 June, 2015 and the following item was considered. I have selected the main points of the discussion which I feel members of the Council will be particularly interested to know more about. For more detail, a copy of the minutes is available on the Committee Management Information System (CMIS) via the Council's website at <http://cmis.sandwell.gov.uk/cmis5/>

1 Work Programme 2015/16

The Board discussed its work programme for the 2015/16 municipal year. Members were informed about a number of housing related policies and strategies that are due for review during the year and agreed an approach to carry out scrutiny of these with groups of councillors conducting research and carrying out evidence gathering visits.

The Board agreed the following key areas for scrutiny:

- Allocations Policy;
- Housing Strategy;
- Adaptations Policy.

Members volunteered to work on the various areas and it was agreed that information packs would be prepared to provide a starting point for building understanding of the topics.

It was reported that there is also an on-going multi-agency working group conducting a review of Tenant Involvement in Sandwell. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Board are members of this group which also includes officers and tenants. The findings and recommendations for improvement arising from the working group will be reported to the Board in due course for consideration.

The Board also discussed a number of other topics that it wished to receive reports on throughout the year. The reviews and reports, along with the appointed members and which element of the Board's terms of reference they support, are set out below:

Topic	Members	Area of Terms of Reference	Report or Review	Estimated date
Allocations Policy	Councillors Hevican, S Hosell and P Hughes	Social housing; Homelessness	Review	February 2016
Housing Strategy	Councillors Eaves, P Hughes and S Jones	Strategic housing policy	Review	February 2016
Adaptations Policy	Councillors Edis and Goult and Mr Babb	Strategic housing policy; Housing-related support services	Review – to include input from Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board	December 2015
Tenant involvement	Councillors Edis and P Hughes	Relationship with the Council's tenants and leaseholders	Review	December 2015
Housing Zone		Strategic housing policy; Housing choice	Report	September 2015
Housing Company		Strategic housing policy	Report	October 2015
Photovoltaic panels on Council-owned housing stock		Social housing; Affordable warmth	Report	October 2015
Equity release products		Strategic housing policy	Report	October 2015
Private sector landlord licensing		Private sector rented accommodation	Report	December 2015

Councillor P Hughes
Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Board