

## **Minutes of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board**

**5<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 at 5.00pm  
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Present:** Councillor Ahmed (Chair);  
Councillor Hevican (Vice-Chair);  
Councillors Allcock, Chidley, M Y Hussain, M Hussain  
and White.

**Apologies:** Councillors Crompton, Hadley and Phillips.

**In attendance:** Dr Alison Knight (Executive Director - Neighbourhoods);  
Alan Caddick (Director – Housing and Communities).

### **6/18 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2018 be approved as a correct record.

### **7/18 Work Programme 2018-19**

The Council's Executive Director – Neighbourhoods and Director – Housing and Communities attended the meeting and provided the Board with an overview of the Neighbourhoods directorate and areas of key activity in support of the ambitions contained within Vision 2030.

The Directorate was involved on several key initiatives and projects that directly supported a number of ambitions, especially Town Plans, the Commonwealth Games and the Cultural Strategy.

From the comments and questions by members of the Scrutiny Board the following responses were made and issues highlighted:-

- The Council was actively engaged in house-building programmes, however where tenants transferred from other Council-owned stock the right to buy transferred with them so they did not have to wait five years before exercising the right to buy on these properties. However, the price of the properties reflected the cost to the Council.

**Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board –  
5<sup>th</sup> June, 2018**

- Previous Government proposals to make Councils sell the most valuable 5% of their properties were not currently progressing.
- The Housing Allocations Policy was being reviewed and it was proposed to bring it to the Scrutiny Board for consideration prior to any decision being made by Cabinet.
- The Council had recently adopted a revised Anti-Social Behaviour Policy; the implementation of this could form the basis of scene-setting for more detailed work around anti-social behaviour, community safety and crime prevention.

The Board also considered suggestions received from members of the public that related to its terms of reference. Aspects of the concerns raised in these would be considered throughout the proposed work programme for the Board.

Members commented upon the future of the digital autopsy service in Sandwell. As this topic was not within the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board's terms of reference this would be raised with the relevant Director.

The Board thanked officers for attending the meeting.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) that the following items be included in a draft work programme for the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board:-
  - (a) Culture Strategy;
  - (b) Housing Allocations Policy;
  - (c) Legacy of the Commonwealth Games;
  - (d) Third Sector Compact;
  - (e) Anti-Social Behaviour, Community Safety and Crime Prevention (including implementation of the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy and the West Bromwich Public Space Protection Order);
- (2) that the Director – Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board determine the best dates for the items to be

**Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board –  
5<sup>th</sup> June, 2018**

included on the work programme to ensure efficiency and timeliness;

- (3) that subject to (2) above, the completed work programme be submitted to the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board for approval.

(Meeting ended at 5.48pm)

Contact Officer: Alex Goddard Democratic Services Unit 0121 569 3178
--