

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)
held at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 17 January 2018

Present:

Members: Councillor N Akhtar (Chair)
Councillor L Kelly
Councillor T Khan
Councillor K Mulhall
Councillor K Taylor (Substitute for Councillor R Bailey)
Councillor T Sawdon
Councillor B Singh
Councillor R Thay
Councillor S Walsh

Other Members: Councillor R Lakha, City Council appointed representative on Whitefriars Board

Officers by Directorate:

Place M Andrews, S Bennett, V Castree
Others Present M Crucefix and S Lees – Stonewater
N Byrne and K Rodgers – Whitefriars

Apologies:- Councillors Bailey, Bigham, Harvard and Thomas

Public Business

23. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest.

The Scrutiny Board noted that Councillor Lakha and Taylor were both City Council appointed representatives on Whitefriars Board.

24. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November, 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

25. Review of Housing Supply and Delivery

The Scrutiny Board received presentations from the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) and representatives from Whitefriars Housing Group and Stonewater Housing Association on Housing Supply and Delivery in Coventry. Midland Heart Housing Association had also submitted a written submission about their work in Coventry, which was also considered by the Scrutiny Board.

The presentations covered the following topics:-

- Housing completion rates 2011-2017

- Housing land supply
- Affordable housing
- Whitefriars Housing Group – Delivery and development plans for Coventry
- Stonewater – Working with Coventry City Council and Future Growth

The Scrutiny Board questioned officers and attendees on aspects of the presentations, including:-

- The use of new innovations and materials in the building of new houses, particularly in light of the national shortage of bricks and gaps in the skills market
- Bringing family homes back into use by building more purpose built student accommodation
- Housing schemes to encourage more City Centre living
- Liaison between the City Council and Housing Associations with a view to a more co-ordinated approach to the delivery of new homes
- The impact that changes to benefit rules have had on the housing market and measures undertaken by Housing Associations to alleviate fuel poverty
- The ratio of affordable/social housing being delivered as part of major development schemes
- New ways of funding housing development

On behalf of the Scrutiny Board, the Chair, Councillor N Akhtar, thanked the Housing Associations' representatives for their attendance and contribution to the meeting.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Cabinet Member for Community Development be informed of the Scrutiny Board's support for the proposed establishment of a Housing Association Liaison Forum.**
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Community Development be recommended to continue to investigate innovative ways of funding future housing development in partnership with the local Housing Associations**

26. Outstanding Issues

The Scrutiny Board noted that all outstanding issues were dealt with in the Scrutiny Board's Work Programme.

27. Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) Work Programme 2017/18

The Scrutiny Board considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) which detailed the Board's Work Programme for 2017/18.

RESOLVED that the following items be added to the Work Programme:-

- **Public Toilets – March 2018**
- **Unauthorised encampments – March/April 2018**

28. Any Other Items of Urgent Public Business

There were no other items of urgent public business.

(Meeting closed at 3.20 pm)