

**Customer & Corporate Services Scrutiny
Management Committee**

14 October 2019

Report of the Chair of Housing and Community Safety
Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Summary

1. The Housing and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee was created at the beginning of this municipal year. Previously, the subject areas were covered by the Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee. The new Committee has met on three occasions since May.
2. The Chair and Vice Chair have resolved to involve non-members in its work going forward wherever possible.

June

3. At this meeting members received a report from the Head of Democratic Services highlighting Arrangements for Scrutiny in York, its features and functions. Members also received a report by the Assistant Director for Housing and Community Safety setting out the various service areas under the remit of this Committee. This gave members an opportunity to develop a better understanding of the role that the council and its partners play in the field of housing and community safety.

July

4. The Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods attended this meeting to outline the priorities and challenges for the portfolio for the coming year. The Head of Housing Delivery presented the draft Housing Delivery Programme Design Manual, and members were given the opportunity to input before its presentation to the Executive.
5. For the discussion on the draft Manual, the Committee was joined by a number of external 'experts'; Caroline Newnham (Abbeyfields Society), Phil Lacey (York Housing Association) and Phil Bixby (Constructive

Individuals Architects). This 'round table' discussion approach made for a lively discussion.

6. In the same meeting Members received a report on a consultation that was taking place on Older Persons Accommodation Needs, and took the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions. Members agreed to promote the survey in their respective wards.

September

7. At this meeting the Committee received a report on the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan from the Head of Housing and the Finance manager.
8. Adrian Waite (an independent consultant) joined members for the discussion on the Business Plan, bringing a perspective from outside of York.
9. Members discussed a report from the Head of Building Services on Decent Homes Standards. At the table for this discussion were a council tenant who is also a member of the Tenants' Panel and an advisor from Citizen's Advice York. The perspectives shared by these non-members again helped to inform the committee's discussion.
10. The Chair took an action from the meeting to draft a scrutiny topic request, following on from the referral of an issue to the committee from the Area Planning Sub Committee. This potential scrutiny topic relates to concerns that units in new housing developments allocated for social housing are not being taken up.

Looking ahead

11. In October the committee will be hosting jointly with the Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee a roundtable discussion on County Lines. Representatives from partner organisations will be invited to take part in this discussion.
12. In November the committee will focus on housing needs and availability, as well as housing standards in the private rental sector.

Cllr Stephen Fenton

Chair of the Housing and Community Safety Policy and Scrutiny Committee