



Leicester
City Council

APPENDIX A

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: MONDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2021 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Westley (Chair)
Councillor Chamund (Vice Chair)

Councillor Ali
Councillor Aqbany
Councillor Rahman

In Attendance:

Councillor Cutkelvin – Assistant City Mayor (Housing and Education)

* * * * *

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Byrne, Crewe and Gee.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair declared an interest as members of his family lived in Council accommodation.

The Vice-Chair declared an interest as a member of her family lived in Council accommodation.

Councillor Aqbany declared an interest as members of his family lived in Council accommodation.

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, these interests were not considered so significant that they were likely to prejudice the Councillors' judgement of the public interest. The Members were not, therefore, required to withdraw from the meeting.

39. HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY UPDATE

The Director of Housing submitted a report, which provided a further update on progress in implementing the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-2023, since the last update to Scrutiny in November 2020.

It was noted that 6-monthly updates were ordinarily provided to the Commission, but the schedule had been interrupted as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was therefore recognised and accepted that the report submitted would have customarily been presented during May 2021.

The Commission welcomed the content of the report, particularly in terms of the progress made since the last update (Quarter 3 & 4, 2020/21) across the following key strategic aims:

- Anyone at risk of homelessness is aware of and has access to the services they may need to prevent it.
- Provide suitable accommodation and support options for people who are, or who may become homeless.
- Reduce rates of repeat homelessness amongst single people.
- Provide the right support and services so that no person needs to sleep rough in Leicester.

In summary, it was confirmed that significant positive results and progress had been made on all points, although some objectives had been placed on hold or changed in order to respond to more immediate needs of the pandemic, and subsequent service recovery.

Commission members requested a further update in 6 months' time and joined the Chair in extending thanks and appreciation to the staff involved in the success of the strategy.

It was suggested that the report be referred to the Overview Select Committee for information and comment.

AGREED:

1. To thank staff for the level of performance in dealing with the cases of homelessness, particularly given the challenges faced due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. That the report be forwarded to the Overview Select Committee for information and comment.