



Leicester  
City Council

## **MEETING OF THE HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

**DATE: THURSDAY, 4 FEBRUARY 2016**  
**TIME: 6:15 pm**  
**PLACE: Meeting Room G.01, Ground Floor, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ**

### **Members of the Scrutiny Commission**

Councillor Newcombe (Chair)  
Councillor Alfonso (Vice Chair)

Councillors Aldred, Aqbany, Byrne, Cank and Joshi  
1 Un-allocated Non-Group Place

Members of the Scrutiny Commission are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed overleaf.

For Monitoring Officer

#### **Officer contacts:**

**Angie Smith (Democratic Support Officer):**

Tel: 0116 454 6354, e-mail: [Angie.Smith@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Angie.Smith@leicester.gov.uk)

**Jerry Connolly (Scrutiny Support Officer):**

Tel: 0116 454 6343, e-mail: [Jerry.Connolly@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Jerry.Connolly@leicester.gov.uk)  
Leicester City Council, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

## Information for members of the public

### Attending meetings and access to information

You have the right to attend formal meetings such as full Council, committee meetings & Scrutiny Commissions and see copies of agendas and minutes. On occasion however, meetings may, for reasons set out in law, need to consider some items in private.

Dates of meetings and copies of public agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website at [www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk), from the Council's Customer Service Centre or by contacting us using the details below.

### Making meetings accessible to all

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If you intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting you are asked to notify the relevant Democratic Support Officer in advance of the meeting to ensure that participants can be notified in advance and consideration given to practicalities such as allocating appropriate space in the public gallery etc.

The aim of the Regulations and of the Council's policy is to encourage public interest and engagement so in recording or reporting on proceedings members of the public are asked:

- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

### Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact Angie Smith, **Democratic Support on (0116) 454 6354** or email [Angie.Smith@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:Angie.Smith@leicester.gov.uk) or call in at City Hall, 115 Charles Street.

For Press Enquiries - please phone the **Communications Unit on 0116 454 4151**

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

### **AGENDA**

#### **FIRE/EMERGENCY EVACUATION**

If the emergency alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building immediately by the nearest available fire exit and proceed to area outside the Ramada Encore Hotel on Charles Street as Directed by Democratic Services staff. Further instructions will then be given.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed.

#### **3. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Appendix A**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2015 are attached.

#### **5. PETITIONS**

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any petitions received in accordance with Council procedures.

#### **6. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS OR STATEMENTS OF CASE**

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any questions, representations or statements of case received in accordance with Council procedures.

#### **7. AREA MANAGERS BRIEFING - BEAUMONT LEYS AND ABBEY WARDS**

**Appendix B**

The Area Manager will deliver a presentation on the Department's work in the Beaumont Leys and Abbey Wards.

#### **8. RENT ARREARS QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

**Appendix C**

The Director of Housing submits a quarterly progress report on Rent Arrears for the period 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 to the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016, to inform the Housing Scrutiny Commission of progress, as requested.

**9. EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY**

**Appendix D**

The Director of Housing submits a report to the Housing Scrutiny Commission Members on the Housing Division's intention to submit a bid to the Service Transformation Fund to increase the number of Empty Homes Officers to reduce the backlog of long-term empty homes. The Commission is asked to note the officers' actions.

**10. RESPONSIVE HOUSING REPAIRS: UPDATE**

**Appendix E**

The Director of Housing submits a report to update Housing Scrutiny Commission Members on the Division's performance on the completion of responsive repairs to council properties, and the implementation of service changes reported to the Housing Scrutiny Commission and agreed by the Executive in November 2014. The Commission is asked to note the report.

**11. MONITORING THE HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY (18 MONTHS)**

**Appendix F**

The Director of Housing and Executive submit a report which seeks the comments of the Housing Scrutiny Commission on the first 18 months of the Homelessness Strategy. The Commission is asked to note the recommendations in the report, and make and comments it sees fit to the Director of Housing and Executive.

**12. WORK PROGRAMME OF THE SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

**Appendix G**

The current work programme for the Commission is attached. The Commission is asked to consider this and make comments and/or amendments as it considers necessary.

**13. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**