

Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 11th September, 2017.

Present: Cllr Derrick Brown (Chair); Cllr Sonia Bailey (Vice-Chair), Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Eileen Johnson (Vice Cllr Paul Rowling), Cllr Maurice Perry and Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E (Vice Cllr Chris Barlow).

Officers: Richard McGuckin, Ray Sullivan (EG&D); Reuben Kench (C,L&E); Steven Hume (CS); Gary Woods, Peter Bell (DCE).

Also in attendance: Cllr Nigel Cooke (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing).

Apologies: Cllr Chris Barlow, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Paul Rowling, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley and Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE.

PLA 24/17 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted

PLA 25/17 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Sonia Bailey declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 7 - Scrutiny Review of Asylum Seeker Services as she was the secretary of United Voices who work with asylum seekers.

PLA 26/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th April 2017-For Signature

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2017 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

PLA 27/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th May 2017- For Approval (to follow)

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2017 will be brought to the next Committee meeting in October 2017 for approval/signature.

PLA 28/17 Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations - Review of Fire Safety of High Rise Residential Buildings (Task & Finish)

Consideration was given to a report on the Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations - Review of Fire Safety of High Rise Residential Buildings (Task & Finish).

The Committee's final report of the Review of Fire Safety of High Rise Residential Buildings (Task & Finish) was considered by Cabinet in July 2017. Cabinet accepted the recommendations contained within.

The agreed recommendations were subject to the procedure for monitoring the implementation of agreed recommendations. An Action Plan had been drawn up and was attached to the report. The Action Plan set out how the relevant departments would be taking forward the agreed recommendations, and included target dates for completion.

The Committee would receive six-monthly updates on the implementation of recommendations.

The Building Control Manager was in attendance at the meeting and detailed each of the recommendations and proposed actions. Members felt that the Committee should receive the recommendations that come from the independent review that was being carried out at national level.

Discussion ensued around the recommendation that sprinkler/misting systems are installed in all high rise residential buildings in Stockton-on-Tees. Members queried if there were any funding opportunities via the Government in relation to this, and it was noted that landlords/owners were able to approach the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) regarding potential assistance in funding these developments. It was also felt that the Government's public inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire is likely to result in a change of legislation around the provision of such systems.

AGREED that the Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations - Review of Fire Safety of High Rise Residential Buildings (Task & Finish) be noted.

PLA 29/17 Scrutiny Review of Asylum Seeker Services

Members were presented with a summary of evidence, summary of emerging findings and some suggested recommendations for the Scrutiny Review of Asylum Seeker Services.

Members drew attention to the issue of some asylum seeker children not being eligible for free school meals and schools funding meals for families. It was felt that this was not as big a concern in Stockton than in other areas, and it was noted that all children in Key Stage 1 are already entitled to free school meals. Members supported the provision of free school meals for asylum seeker children.

Members agreed that a recommendation around forced room-sharing for adult asylum seekers needed to clearly reflect the Committee's objection to such practice.

AGREED that:-

1. The summary of evidence and summary of emerging findings be noted.
2. The draft recommendations be agreed.

PLA 30/17 Scrutiny Review of Billingham Event Infrastructure/Billingham International Folk Festival (BIFF)

Members were presented with outline scope and project plan for the Scrutiny Review of Billingham Event Infrastructure/Billingham International Folk Festival (BIFF).

Members were reminded that this review aims to focus on the infrastructure requirements of BIFF, and input from local Billingham Councillors and Billingham Town Council would also be sought.

Site visits to the accommodation site were undertaken during the festival in August 2017, and feedback from these visits will be provided at the next Committee meeting in October 2017.

AGREED that the Scope and Project plan be agreed.

**PLA
31/17** **Work Programme 2017-2018**

Members were presented with the Work Programme 2017-2018.

It was proposed and agreed to put back the next Committee meeting from the 9th to the 30th October 2017.

AGREED that the Work Programme 2017-18 be noted.