

## Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 10th September, 2018.

**Present:** Cllr Derrick Brown(Chairman), Cllr Sonia Bailey(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Louise Baldock, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Tony Hampton (sub Cllr Maurice Perry), Cllr Tony Hampton, Cllr Paul Weston

**Officers:** Jayne Robins (CS), Richard McGuckin, Jane Edmonds, Raymond Sullivan (EGDS), Gary Woods, Sarah Whaley, Marianne Sleeman (DCE)

**Also in attendance:**

**Apologies:** Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley and Cllr Bill Woodhead MBE

**PLA 28/18 Evacuation, Audio & Housekeeping Procedures**

Evacuation Procedure was noted.

**PLA 29/18 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Evaline Cunningham declared a personal non prejudicial interest in relation to item 'Scrutiny Review of Consolidation of Thirteen Housing Group', as a relative resides in a Thirteen property.

Cllr Paul Weston declared a personal prejudicial interest in relation to item 'Scrutiny Review of Consolidation of Thirteen Housing Group' this item as he was an employee of Thirteen Housing. He therefore left the meeting whilst this item was being considered.

**PLA 30/18 Minutes of the Meetings held on 14th May, 11th June and 9th July 2018**

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meetings held on 14th May, 11th June and 9th July 2018 .

AGREED that the minutes of the meetings held on 14th May, 11th June and 9th July 2018 be approved as a correct record.

**PLA 31/18 Scrutiny Review of Consolidation of Thirteen Housing Group**

Consideration was given to the draft final report and recommendations.

Members noted the efforts Thirteen Group had made in communicating with Councillors since this review began, and were thanked for their co-operation throughout.

AGREED that the final report be approved for submission to Cabinet.

**PLA 32/18 Monitoring the impact of previously agreed recommendations**

Consideration was given to progress of the implementation of previously agreed recommendations. There were outstanding recommendations from the review of Fire Safety of High Rise Residential Buildings (Task & Finish).

In relation to recommendation 2 (Committee recommends to Cabinet that the Government is strongly lobbied to improve and strengthen building control mechanisms in relation to fire safety), a summary of the findings of the Hackitt Report would be circulated to Committee Members following this meeting.

Consideration was given to Rialto Court (student housing) and Hanover Point (private housing company). A lot of information had been received regarding fire risk assessments carried out and they do hit a very good standard. The Committee discussed concerns regarding advice given to residents in case of fire and sought assurance around the current evacuation protocol. Members were advised that the 'Stay Put' policy was still in place at Kennedy Gardens, as well as at Hanover Point and Rialto Court.

Members were informed that meetings were held every two weeks with the Local Authority and Thirteen Housing Group to provide continuous assurance.

AGREED that:

1) The Progress Updates be noted and the assessments for progress be confirmed.

2) A summary of the findings of the Hackitt Report be circulated to Committee Members following this meeting.

**PLA 33/18      Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations - Review of Management of Memorials**

Members were presented with the Action Plan setting out how the agreed recommendations from the Review of Management of Memorials will be implemented and target dates for completion.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- Recent audit of all graves within the Borough's cemeteries completed in July 2018 which showed a further increase in compliance with the current Grave Personalisation Policy (GPP).
- Re-engagement with Memorial Masons has been completed to highlight the problems with fixed kerbs and clarification that they are not permitted to sell/fix kerbs or kerb components to families for self-fixing.
- Confirmation had been sent to all Masons that installation of kerbs was not permitted and disciplinary action would be taken if breached; they were also to confirm in writing that they would comply.
- Clarification was provided on the 'approved list' of memorials masons and the need for them to confirm they will abide by the Council's regulations and submit their public liability insurance annually.
- Registration and Bereavement staff had received briefings on the new policy for the Durham Road Cemetery extension, however refresher training would be undertaken in spring 2019, prior to the extension opening. Updated information

literature has been produced and circulated to all stakeholders (hard-copies were provided for Members at the meeting).

- Only blue and green colours are available for the grave collars in addition to black – will continue to pursue other options.

AGREED that the Action Plan be approved.

**PLA**      **Scrutiny Review of River-Based Economy**

**34/18**

Committee were scheduled to consider a draft scope and plan of the Scrutiny Review of River-Based Economy. However, it has emerged that work has been recently undertaken (commissioned by the Council) in relation to this topic, and additional time is therefore required to determine scrutiny involvement. An update will be provided at the next Committee meeting in October 2018.

AGREED that further information would be provided at the next Committee meeting.

**PLA**      **Work Programme 2018-2019**

**35/18**

Consideration was given to the Work Programme. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for the 15th October 2018.

An update was provided on the ongoing Scrutiny Review of Parking on Grass Verges (Task & Finish) – Members were informed meetings had been arranged for September 2018, and that photographic evidence had been submitted from a number of Councillors highlighting this issue.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.