



Please ask for Amanda Clayton
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The Chair and Members of Enterprise
and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

2 February 2022

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE to be held on THURSDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2022 at 5.00 pm in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield S40 1LP, the agenda for which is set out below.

AGENDA

Part 1(Public Information)

1. Declarations of Members' And Officers' Interests Relating To Items On The Agenda
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Cabinet Member for Housing - Private Sector Housing Update (Pages 3 - 6)
4. Scrutiny Monitoring (Pages 7 - 14)
5. Forward Plan

The latest version of the Forward Plan of Key Decisions 1 March, 2022 to 30 June, 2022 is available via the link below;

[Forward Plan](#)

6. Work Programme for the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (Pages 15 - 16)
7. Minutes (Pages 17 - 20)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Randy', written in a cursive style.

Local Government and Regulatory Law Manager and Monitoring Officer

For publication

Private Sector Housing

Meeting:	Enterprise & Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee
Date:	10 th February, 2022
Cabinet portfolio:	Housing
Directorate:	Housing

Background

The number of privately rented households across the country has increased rapidly over the last 20 years, rising from a total of just over two million households in 2000 to a total of 4.55 million households as of 2019. Whilst the quality of privately rented housing has also improved, a number of privately rented properties still do not meet minimum legal standards and a small number of rogue or criminal landlords continue to knowingly rent out unsafe and substandard accommodation. It is these landlords that Government and local authorities are determined to crack down on and disrupt their business model.

In 2019 Chesterfield Borough Council Stock took part in a joint project, hosted by Derby City Council as part of a collaboration between Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council and all the District/Boroughs. The stock condition report found 16% of Chesterfield's residents were living in privately rented homes approximately 26% of those homes failed to meet the decency standard. Reflecting national trends, the report found correlations against poor housing conditions and deprivation. This data reflects the importance of a robust approach to enforcement of landlords who rent out poor quality housing.

Journey so far

The Council has an overarching Housing Strategy which aims to enhance Chesterfield's housing offer so that anyone wishing to live in Chesterfield can live in a quality home they can afford.

The Council has in place an existing Private Sector Housing Enforcement Policy, and the Private Sector Housing Enforcement Team are actively enforcing against private landlords whose accommodation falls below the required standard and have over recent years achieved a good record of successfully prosecuting rogue landlords.

However, it was acknowledged that the Enforcement Team were under-resourced in relation to the demands on the service and as a result, the team were only able to react to the most urgent disrepair cases reported to them. In addition, the team didn't have any resource to actively tackle problematic empty properties within the borough. So, whilst the team are carrying out good work and taking action against rogue landlords, there is so much more with regards to tackling the poor behaviour of rogue landlords, fostering and contributing towards relationships with partner agencies that is required.

In April 2020 cabinet approved the Private Sector Housing Project Plan including the addition of 2 new posts within the Private Sector Housing Team.

- A Senior Environmental Health Officer (EHO) to work in the Enforcement Team and
- An EHO to work primarily on problematic empty homes.

Private Sector Housing Update

Recruitment

The team have continued to take appropriate and proportionate enforcement action against those private sector landlords who fail to engage with the team and continue to allow their tenants to live in poor quality accommodation, this has resulted in the successful prosecution of a private landlord in Dec 21.

We have been successful in recruiting to the Senior Environmental Health Officer post and the officer is due to start work with us at the end of the month.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to recruit to the Environmental Health Officer post. We feel this is in part due to the nationwide shortage of Environmental Health Officers, able to carry out Private Sector Housing work. Certainly, it has been an issue throughout Derbyshire and is reflected in the outcome of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health's workforce survey [Workforce survey England - CIEH](#)

To overcome this issue, we have redrafted the job role to appeal to a wider audience and have included the role within the Housing Reshape that is currently in progress. Members of staff affected by the reshape will then be considered for the role before the position is advertised.

Moving forward, the team are researching the possibility of creating an apprentice EHO role, so that Chesterfield Borough Council can train a member of staff to become an EHO and hopefully retain them within the authority.

Strategic progress

Whilst a large amount of Private Sector Housing Work is reactive, the legal action we take against landlords relies on us having appropriate policies and procedures in place. To enable the team to take a wider range of action in relation to poor private rental properties and importantly to give clear and appropriate guidance to landlords, the team have been working on the following policies which we require cabinet approval. Please also see the accompanying short power point presentation which explains the purpose of these policies.

Reports that require cabinet approval

- Private Sector Housing EPC policy.
- Private Sector Housing Fees and Charges Policy.
- Private Sector Housing Amenities and Space Standards policy.
- Revised Private Sector Housing Park Homes policy.
- Park Homes Fit and Proper Person policy.

In Conclusion

The Private Sector Housing Team continue to work hard to enforce against those landlords who fail to carry out their legal duties. Much work has been done over the last 12 months to increase capacity within the team and improve both the enforcement service and education of landlords. However, we recognise that we are on a journey and there is much work still to do.

As part of our journey, we would welcome the opportunity to work with members to continue to improve our offer and establish trust within our communities to enable the service to operate at its maximum potential.

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SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING SCHEDULE

Ref No	Item (Scrutiny Issue or Topic. SPG = Scrutiny Project Group work)	Decision Dates (Scrutiny Committee, Cabinet, Council & its Committees)	Scrutiny Committee Recommendations and/or <i>Decision making body resolution</i> (<i>italics = Agreed by Scrutiny Committee but not yet considered by decision making body</i>) *	Completion Date for Actions	Action / Response Completed	Further Action Required by Scrutiny (6 monthly progress reports)
CCO1 Page 7	Statutory Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Ctte	CCO 29.09.11 (Min. No. 44)	Progress report on sharing information re alcohol related health problems and hospital admissions.	6 monthly wef 29/09/11.	Statistics requested for each 6 monthly meeting	Agreed on 08.01.15 that statistics on alcohol related health problems / hospital admissions be reported to each 6 monthly meeting.

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EW6	Skills	<p>EW 05.02.19 (Min. No 48)</p> <p>Cabinet 26.02.19 (Min. No 110)</p>	<p>Skills SPG report approved by Enterprise and Wellbeing 05.02.19</p> <p>Cabinet Response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Cabinet thanks the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for the report which highlights an important area of work for the Council and reflects our commitment to driving skills development in the Borough through our support of the Skills Action Plan and continued engagement with key partners and stakeholders. 2. That the Cabinet notes and endorses the recommendations, and acknowledges that the recommendations can be accommodated within the normal work programme and through partners. 3. That the decision to co-fund the Enterprise Co-ordinator post be deferred for consideration as a 	Monitoring Action is being developed in consultation with senior officers to identify target dates for completion.	<p>Progress reported to E&W – 4.02.21.</p> <p>Skills Action Plan scheduled for refresh early 2022.</p>	

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Page 9			<p>growth request as part of the budget setting process for 2020/21. The Cabinet recognises the positive impact of the Enterprise Co-ordinator for Chesterfield and that this is currently co-funded for 2 years until 2019/20.</p> <p>See SPG Report for recommendations.</p>			
EW7	Future Use of the Former QPSC Site	<p>EW 3.10.19 (Min. No. 20)</p> <p>Cabinet 22.10.19 (Min. No. 53)</p>	<p>SPG report approved by EW 3.10.19.</p> <p>Cabinet Response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the use of the new sports pitch be monitored through the Council's normal management processes against the objective of balancing the need to achieve a commercial return and provide opportunities for community and health and wellbeing development. 2. That the marketing approach and pricing structure for the sports pitch be reviewed as necessary as part of the Council's overall marketing and 	TBC due to impact of COVID 19	Progress reported to E&W 4.02.21.	Data requested for February 2022 meeting in order to close this item

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			pricing of its sports and leisure services.			
EW8	Parks and Open Spaces and Play Strategies	EW 14.10.21 (Min. No. 16)	<i>Committee Resolutions:</i> 1. <i>That the feedback provided by the committee be submitted as part of the public consultation process</i> 2. <i>That a further update be brought to the committee to demonstrate how the consultation feedback has influenced the final versions of the strategies.</i> 3. <i>That the committee undertake a monitoring role, particularly at the implementation stage of the process.</i>	Ongoing	Consultation on the draft strategies took place 14.10.21. Feedback was submitted to officers. The final versions due to be presented to Cabinet 22.02.22	
HS2	HS2	OPSF 11.09.18 Cabinet 23.10.18 (Min. No. 48)	Cabinet Response: 1. That the Cabinet thanks the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum for the first class work that has been taken forward in looking at how the Council is preparing for HS2 and, in particular, for the Forum's efforts in broadening and deepening the understanding of Council Members of the subject matter.	Following Parliament's consideration of the Hybrid Bill	Recommendations approved by Cabinet 23.10.18 Monitoring update considered by OPSF - 19.03.19	Monitor after Hybrid Bill has been taken to Parliament.

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Page 11			<p>2. That Cabinet notes and endorses the recommendations of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum.</p> <p>3. That Cabinet endorses, in particular, the Forum's recommendation to establish a new Skills Scrutiny Project group and resolves to defer to the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum further consideration of the merit of establishing new Scrutiny Project Groups to look at particular aspects of HS2 as part of the future work programming discussions.</p> <p>See SPG Report for recommendations.</p>			
<p>Abbreviations Key : OP = Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum. CCO = Community, Customer and Organisational Development Scrutiny Committee. EW = Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee). TBA (to be agreed). * Note recommendation wording may be abridged.</p>						

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SCRUTINY PROGRESS MONITORING REPORT ON : FUTURE USE OF QUEEN'S PARK SPORTS CENTRE SITE

To provide progress in implementing recommendations of the Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee from its scrutiny project work on the Future Use of the Queen's Park Sports Centre Site – approved at **Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (3 October, 2019 – Minute No. 20)**.

These recommendations were considered by **Cabinet on 22 October, 2019**, where it was resolved:

1. **That the use of the new sports pitch be monitored through the Council's normal management processes against the objective of balancing the need to achieve a commercial return and provide opportunities for community and health and wellbeing development.**
2. **That the marketing approach and pricing structure for the sports pitch be reviewed as necessary as part of the Council's overall marketing and pricing of its sports and leisure services.**
(Minute No. 53)

Recommendation 1 - That the use of the new sports pitch be monitored through the Council's normal management processes against the objective of balancing the need to achieve a commercial return and provide opportunities for community and health and wellbeing development.				
Action	Responsibility / Implementation by:	Resources Needed / Available	Target Date	Achievement / Completed
As per recommendation	Assistant Director – Health and Wellbeing	Within existing resources	April 2020	See update statement below

Recommendation 2 - That the marketing approach and pricing structure for the sports pitch be reviewed as necessary as part of the Council's overall marketing and pricing of its sports and leisure services.				
Action	Responsibility / Implementation by:	Resources Needed / Available	Target Date	Achievement / Completed
As per recommendation	Assistant Director – Health and Wellbeing	Within existing resources	April 2020	See update statement below

February 2022 Update to Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee:

Since opening the new 3G pitch on the former site of Queens Park Sports Centre in September 2019 the response from the public has been both positive and supportive in developing use of the facility.

Regular contract bookings are now in place with peak slots (weekdays between 5pm and 9pm) being the most popular: 23 groups/clubs currently use the same hourly slot each week. There are also bookings in place during weekdays and weekend time slots.

Some organisations were impacted by the pandemic and were forced to close. This resulted in some cancellations but these have largely been replaced.

Appropriate communications with all the relevant groups were maintained throughout the pandemic to ensure that the facility remained Covid-19 compliant.

To date it is pleasing to note that all customers have been supportive of the sport and leisure services` approach to provide this facility in these very difficult circumstances.

The service will continue to work with local groups, clubs and individuals to further develop this great addition to sport pitch provision in Chesterfield.

WORK PROGRAMME: ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 10 FEBRUARY 2022

	Scrutiny Committee Date:	Business Item :	Status :	Raised by :	Cabinet Member Responsibility
1	15.07.21	Social Housing White Paper	Requested initial overview from which scrutiny members can identify threads for further scrutiny review and input during the year. Further detail on white paper expected in 2022 and beyond and additional briefings would be provided as and when the information became available.	Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2021	Housing
2	14.10.21	Parks and Open Spaces and Play Strategies	Consultation exercise was carried out following public consultation. Added to monitoring schedule.	Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2021	Health & Wellbeing
3	02.12.21	Apprenticeships outside CBC	Full update was given on the impact of the pandemic. A review of the Skills Action Plan was due early 2022 and it was suggested that scrutiny be involved in this process starting with a briefing session in the new year.	Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2021	Deputy Leader of the Council
4.	10.02.22	Private Sector Housing		Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2021	Housing

	Scrutiny Committee Date:	Business Item :	Status :	Raised by :	Cabinet Member Responsibility
5	07.04.22	TBC			
<i>Scrutiny Project Groups (SPG) :</i>					
<i>Items Pending Reschedule or Removal:</i>					
5	TBC	Commercialisation Strategy	It is proposed that the future input of scrutiny committee is planned as part of the OD programme development and implementation	<i>Annual Scrutiny Work Programme 2019</i>	<i>Housing</i>
<i>New Business Items Proposed:</i>					

Note: Items for monitoring (from scrutiny reviews and/or recommendations) are not included above but are listed in the Scrutiny Monitoring Form a separate item on the agenda. Items from the Forward Plan and Scrutiny Monitoring Form can be included in the work programme. *[KEY to abbreviations : O&P = Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum. CCO = Community, Customer and Organisational Development Scrutiny Committee. E&W = Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. TBC = to be confirmed. KD = Forward Plan Key Decision].*

ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**Thursday, 2nd December, 2021**

Present:-

Councillor Flood (Chair)

Councillors Caulfield
DykeCouncillors Hollingworth
Brittain

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

**17 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS
RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

No declarations of interest were received.

18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Coy.

19 APPRENTICESHIPS

The Deputy Leader of the Council introduced the report on apprenticeships by commending Chesterfield Borough Council's successes in this area. The quantity and quality of promotional work undertaken by the Economic Development Team and the positive feedback it receives from employers, providers and learners were highlighted to the committee.

The Senior Economic Development Officer outlined some of the key findings of the report. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on apprenticeships, but it was not the only contributing factor in the decline in numbers. Government policy had changed significantly, which affected the availability of apprenticeships, delivery methods had been altered and a decline in Level 2 options were also possible causes. The Government's Plan for Jobs announced in 2020 included the Kickstart scheme and it was thought that a proportion of employers and learners may be taking advantage of this opportunity rather than an apprenticeship.

There had been recruitment challenges due to the pandemic and as a result of Brexit. In contrast to this, there had been more jobs than ever advertised in the e-commerce sector, with hourly rates of pay that were more attractive to young people than those offered by employers taking on apprentices.

The Senior Economic Development Officer advised the committee that the council's Skills Action Plan was under review and as part of the planning for the refresh it might be useful to hold a session for members to input on what they think the areas of focus should be. This could then be followed up with a second session to look at the draft documentation.

It was suggested that one possible focus could be on older people acquiring skills, such as armed forces veterans, who might be eligible for a wage supplement. Feedback from employers suggested that it was increasingly difficult to find good candidates and the veterans link would be pursued via the armed forces lead at Jobcentre Plus.

Discussions took place around the increase in the number of Level 3 apprenticeships available in the care sector and whether this was as a result of the shortfall of trained staff caused by the pandemic. It was explained that this could be due to the move away from the apprenticeships frameworks, to standards, and also the arrival of Derby University in the town, which delivers a multitude of higher level health sector qualifications.

Questions were asked about the data provided on learners that had taken a break from their learning due to the pandemic and drop out rates in general. This data was only available to providers however, whereas the data the council had access to concerned achievement rates. Redundancy data was not widely reported but it was accepted that the furlough schemes may have impacted on some learners.

The Deputy Leader concluded by congratulating the Senior Economic Development Officer for the Apprenticeship Ambassador of the Year Award that she had recently been presented with.

The Chair thanked the Senior Economic Development Officer for attending and for a very informative report, presented in a concise and user-friendly format.

RESOLVED –

1. To note the report.
2. To accept the offer of scrutiny involvement in the Skills Action Plan, starting with a briefing session early in the new year.
3. To request an update in a year's time to determine the long term impact of COVID-19.

20 SCRUTINY MONITORING

The Committee considered the Scrutiny recommendations monitoring schedule.

RESOLVED -

That the Scrutiny monitoring schedule be noted.

21 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 December, 2021 to 31 March, 2022 was presented for information.

RESOLVED –

That the Forward Plan be noted.

22 WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The 2021/22 Work Programme for the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee was reported for information.

RESOLVED –

That the work programme be noted and updated to include the decisions of the current meeting.

23 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee held on 14 October, 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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