CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON C O U N C I L

Scrutiny Board

21 September 2021

Time 6.00 pm Public Meeting? YES Type of meeting Scrutiny

Venue Council Chamber - 4th Floor - Civic Centre

Membership

Chair Cllr Paul Sweet (Lab)
Vice-chair Cllr Simon Bennett (Con)

Labour Conservative

Cllr Philip Bateman MBE Cllr Wendy Thompson

Cllr Val Evans Cllr Ellis Turrell
Cllr Rita Potter

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar Cllr Asha Mattu Cllr John Reynolds

Cllr Susan Roberts MBE

Cllr Zee Russell

Cllr Barbara McGarrity QN

Quorum for this meeting is four Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the Democratic Services team:

Contact Julia Cleary

Tel/Email julia.cleary@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Address Democratic Services, Civic Centre, 1st floor, St Peter's Square,

Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

Website http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/
http://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/
democratic.services@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Tel 01902 555046

Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

If you are reading these papers on an electronic device you have saved the Council £11.33 and helped reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. Title

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Declarations of interest
- 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting** (Pages 3 6) [To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record.]

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 4 Annual Social Care, Public Health and Corporate Complaints Report [Report will be sent to follow]
- 5 Private Sector Housing Standards (Pages 7 10) [To receive an update from Chris Howell Commercial Regulation Manager in relation to Private Sector Housing Standards]
- Work programmes (Pages 11 30)
 [To consider the Board and Panel's work programmes for future meetings.]



Scrutiny Board

Minutes - 22 June 2021

Agenda Item No: 3

Attendance

Members of the Scrutiny Board

Cllr Paul Sweet (Chair)

Cllr Philip Bateman MBE

Cllr Val Evans

Cllr Rita Potter

Cllr Wendy Thompson

Cllr Simon Bennett (Vice-Chair)

Cllr Jasbinder Dehar

Cllr Asha Mattu

Cllr John Reynolds

Cllr Susan Roberts MBE

Cllr Zee Russell

Cllr Ellis Turrell

In Attendance

David Pattison Director of Governance

Julia Cleary Scrutiny and Systems Manager

Earl Piggott Smith Scrutiny Officer Martin Stevens Scrutiny Officer

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. Title

1 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the previous meeting

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Quarter 3 Social Care, Public Health and Corporate Complaints Report 2020/21 Scrutiny Board received a report from Director of Governance requesting them to review complaints management and performance for the period 1 October to 31 December 2020.

The report provided an overview of Quarter Three Social Care, Public Health and Corporate Complaints report for the following areas:

Corporate

- Children's
- Adults and Public Health
- Ombudsman enquiries

In relation to corporate stage one complaints the Council had received 43 stage one corporate complaints; this was a consistent number of cases in comparison to 2019/20 as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report. Out of the 43 cases received, 19 were upheld (at fault). The highest figure of 24 complaints received referred to Waste Management and out of 24 received, 15 were upheld. This was in comparison to 13 stage one complaints received during quarter three 2019/20. The Complaints Team had worked closely with the service to improve complaint handling and ensure appropriate remedies were put in place to achieve the best outcomes for customers.

In relation to corporate stage two complaints it was explained that if a customer remained dissatisfied, they could escalate to stage two of the complaints procedure. In this period the council had received five stage two cases and out of the five cases received, two cases were upheld (at fault) and three cases were not upheld (not at fault).

In relation to Children's complaints, the council had received 10 stage one children's services complaints, which was a consistent number of cases (10) received in comparison to quarter three in 2019/20. There had been three stage two complaints received during this period and no stage three complaints. There had been nine cases closed and resolved during this period, four cases were partially upheld (partially at fault) and five cases were not upheld (not at fault).

In relation to Adult's and Public Health complaints, the council had received seven stage one adult services complaints which was a decrease of 10 cases in comparison to quarter three in 2019/20. There had been five cases closed and resolved during this period, two cases were upheld, one case was partially upheld and two cases were not upheld.

The council had received 14 assessment enquiries from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) and two assessment enquiries from the Housing Ombudsman (HO). The council had received three LGSCO full enquiries, two for Adult Services (both upheld) and one for Planning Department (not upheld).

The council had also received one full enquiry from the HO for Wolverhampton Homes in relation to a landlord's handling of a repair to the boiler and damage to possessions. The outcome concluded service failure and appropriate remedies/resolutions had now been put in place.

The Board understood that the council sought to learn from the complaints made and that when a complaint was upheld (council at fault) and the finding of a subsequent investigation was for a financial remedy, change to policy or service delivery; the Customer Feedback Team produced an action plan report. Recommendations within these reports were agreed with appropriate Heads of Service and shared with the relevant Service Manager/Director to ensure appropriate remedies and changes to policy/service delivery were implemented. The Customer Feedback Team also attended regular quality assurance meetings for Adults and Children's Services to ensure they used the learning from complaints to drive service improvements.

The Customer Feedback Team had also received a total of 94 compliments (Corporate, Public Health, Adults and Children's) for this period and an example in relation to Waste Management was discussed.

A question was raised in relation to the average time that it took for a member of the public to reach the Council and it was agreed that information would be provided in relation to this at a future meeting. A Board member also mentioned the tree services and that issues such as smaller gardens being overshadowed by very large trees were of great concern and occasionally expense to some homeowners.

Some concerns were raised in relation to waste management complaints which appeared to have increased since the last quarter. It was accepted that the nature of the pandemic was in some way to blame for this and that complaints in relation to this would continue to be closely monitored.

A comment was raised in relation to Appendix 3 where 214 service request enquiries had been logged. The Board asked under what situation an issue was logged as a complaint and when it was deemed to be an enquiry and if it was logged as an enquiry how were lessons learnt from this. The Director for Governance stated that it was vital to be open and transparent and that this was why the information in relation to enquiries was included in the report and provided an example whereby an enquiry into why a bin had not been collected might be due to it not having been put outside by the homeowner so would not constitute a complaint. This meant that it would be dealt with in a more timely manner. In relation to the figures for waste management it was asked whether it was possible to see separate figures for the general and recycling waste against the green garden waste.

The Board also queried as to whether in the future it might be worth considering a benchmarking exercise in relation to waste collection with other local authorities of a similar nature, size and geography. The Director of Governance agreed to consider this for a future meeting.

A question was raised in the chat as to what the 15 upheld waste management complaints were, what these covered, what the common themes were and that if they were repeated complaints about similar themes what actions had been taken.

The question was also raised in the chat as to how a complaint could be a positive experience for a customer.

Resolved: That a report be brought to a future meeting of Scrutiny Board in relation to Customer Services and waiting times.

5 Work Planning and Work Programmes

Scrutiny Board considered a presentation on work planning.

A board member referred to a previous scrutiny task and finish group that had considered the issue of flash flooding in the City. It was suggested that a follow up piece of work could be carried out to follow up on this and Seven Trent Water invited to an enquiry day to provide evidence in relation to the current situation.

A board member asked whether information could be provided showing all the different government grants that had been received by the Council and where the grant money had been allocated.

A report was requested to be brought before the Board in relation to the current situation with private sector rented accommodation.

It was noted that performance reports in relation to Wolverhampton Homes and WV Living were being considered for inclusion on the Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel work programme.

A query was also raised as to where educational achievement would be scrutinised.

Resolved: That the work plan be updated, and feedback be provided at the next meeting.

Briefing Note

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

Agenda Item No: 5

Title: CAT1 Hazards in Private Rented Housing			Date: 13 th	September 2021
Prepared by: Will	liam Humphries	Job Title: Service Ma	nager Private	Sector Housing
Intended Audience:	Internal □	Partner organisation	Public ⊠	Confidential

Purpose

To provide comment on the 'BRE Client Report – BRE Integrated Dwelling Level Housing Stock Modelling and Database for City of Wolverhampton Council October 2017', assertion that 21% of private rented properties have a cat 1 hazard.

To provide information as to how Private Sector Housing regulate the private rented sector.

BRE Report Findings

In 2016 the City Council commissioned the Building Research Establishment to undertake a series of desktop modelling exercises on the housing within the City of Wolverhampton. This modelling was based on a variety of data sources including Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings, and the English Housing Survey 2012. This data is nearly 10 years out of date.

An aim of the report was to highlight CAT1 hazards in the City, which is likely to have resulted in the way the data was reported.

Using EPC statistical information meant that the CAT1 hazards mostly related to excess cold in private rented accommodation, trip hazards were also included. How trip hazards can be guessed without visiting a property is an unanswered question.

Private rented properties in Wolverhampton compare favourably when pitched against other regional properties however this is not the case nationally.

Nobody knows the number of CAT 1 hazards in the City. To find this information would require an inspection of every property in the City by a qualified officer, this is not feasible for many reasons including, resources, costs, access to homes, time etc.

Large Scale Surveying of Housing within Wolverhampton.

The only way to get accurate and up to date information about the prevalence of HHSRS Cat 1 hazards in the housing in Wolverhampton is to undertake physical surveys of a suitable sample of those houses. This is not possible as we do not have the legal powers or the resources to do so. Most of the work that the Private Sector Housing Service undertakes is in response to complaints,

where the tenant provides access. The Service does proactively inspect approximately 50 Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) each year in relation to their licensing.

City of Wolverhampton Private Sector Housing Complaint Statistics

Historically the case management system that was used by the Private Sector Housing Service had been configured poorly making it difficult to produce meaningful statistics. Previously reported statistical information cannot be replicated and therefore there is no confidence in any data prior to April 2021.

Prior to April 2021 incoming complaints were categorised, A = priority response and B = none priority. This does not equate directly to HHSRS Cat 1 hazards, the priorities will include other matters. The last three years statistics are provided below together with this year 'so far':

Year	A Priority	B Priority	Total	% CAT A
2018 – 2019	218	214	432	50
2019 – 2020	201	312	513	40
2020 – 2021	126	208	334	37
	CAT 1	OTHER		%CAT 1
April 2021 – to date	25	133	158	16

The above table correctly depicts the number of HHSRS Cat 1 hazard complaints received. The percentage is 16% of complaints received being CAT1 rather than the erroneous 37%-50% shown by previous three years data.

It is reasonable to assume that in in 2021 - 2022 that the Private Sector Housing Service will be expected to receive circa 60 HHSRS Cat 1 hazard complaints from the 19,443 private rented houses in Wolverhampton.

Does this mean there are very few housing problems in Wolverhampton?

Absolutely not. Private Sector Housing are a reactive service, only responding to complaints that are received. There are rogue landlords who use underhand tactics to stop tenant complaining. There are tenants who do not necessarily know how to complain, especially those new to the country and where English is not their first language.

All houses will have elements that need repair or improvement from time to time, some of which would create a HHSRS Cat 1 hazard. The real issue for Private Sector Housing is where those repairs or improvements are not carried out in an appropriate time scale or at all, these are the matters that the Private Sector Housing Service receive complaints about.

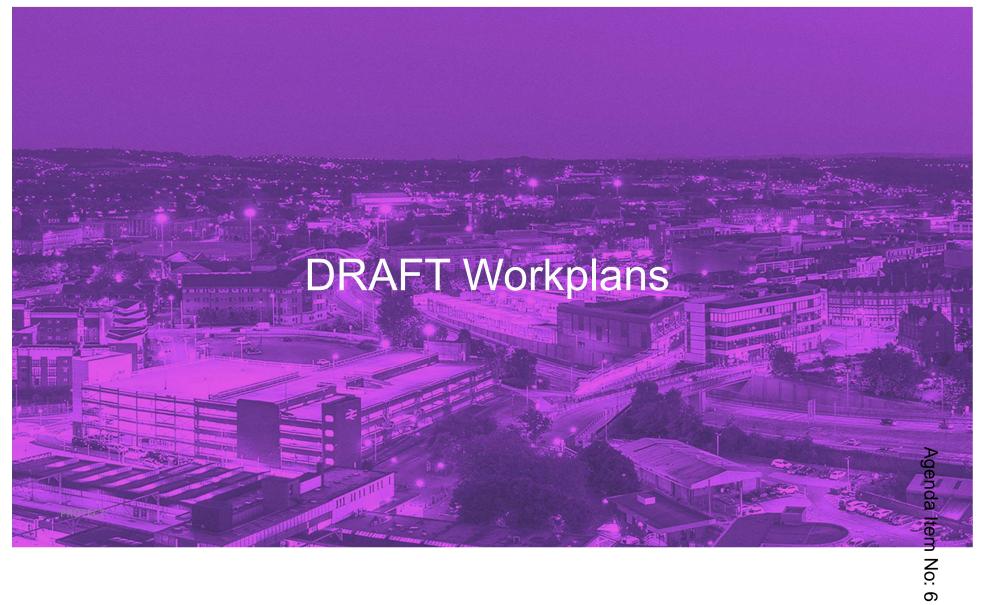
Private Sector Housing

The introduction of effective strategic planning and operational management has created a strong foundation to move forwards. The team has a mix of committed, experienced housing officers and newer staff that have the potential to develop with the service.

The initial focus is on ensuring that 'business as usual' is delivered robustly, expediently and efficiently, this will provide reassurance that the service is delivering its core objectives of addressing poor housing and the poor treatment of tenants.

Private Sector Housing is now delivering a good service, it is in a process of constant improvement in the goal to become an excellent delivering service. The ongoing improvements will allow the City Council to make significant improvements to the private rented housing stock and the lives of the tenants occupying the properties in Wolverhampton.





Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel - Draft Work Plan

Chair: Cllr Val Evans	Vice chair: Cllr	SEB Lead:	Scrutiny Lead:
	Sohail Khan	Emma Bennett	Earl Piggot-Smith

Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author
20 July 2021	12 July 2021	 Principal Social Worker Annual Report 	Jenny Rogers
		 Mandatory Vaccinations for Social Care Homes - 	Becky Wilkinson

Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel - Draft Work Plan

Chair: Cllr Val Evans	Vice chair: Cllr Sohail Khan	SEB Lead: Emma Bennett	Scrutiny Lead: Earl Piggot-Smith
Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author
19 October 2021	11 October 2021	Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Board – Update to include Domestic Abuse Act 2021 & Best practice update on CHANNEL guidance	Hannah Pawley
		 Adult Social Care Annual Report - Wolverhampton Local Account 	Becky Wilkinson
		 Mandatory Vaccinations for Social Care Homes – update 	Becky Wilkinson

PROTECT

Adults and Safer City Scrutiny Panel - Draft Work Plan

Chair: Cllr Val Evans	Vice chair: Cllr Sohail Khan	SEB Lead: Emma Bennett	Scrutiny Lead: Earl Piggot-Smith
Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item description	Lead Report Author
W/C 6 December 2021	Additional Meeting	 Social Care Market and Provider Sustainability - briefing 	Becky Wilkinson
15 February 2022	7 February 2022	 Care and Support Provider Fee Review 2021 – 2022 	Alicia Woods
		 Supporting our vulnerable adolescents at risk of exploitation – including an update on Power2 Team 	Rachel King Sandra Ashton Jones
16 March 2022	8 March 2022 (Additional Meeting)	Adult Social Work Health Check 2020	Jenny Rogers Courtney Abbott
		 Adult Social Care Workforce Health Check 2020 	Jenny Rogers Courtney Abbott

PROTECT

Chair: Cllr Rita Potter	Vice Chair: Cllr	SEB Lead: Emma Bennett	Scrutiny Lead: Earl
	Adam Collinge		Piggott-Smith

Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author
14 July 2021	6 July 2021	Principal Social Worker Annual Report	Jenny Rogers
		 Education Excellence Strategy (pre-decision scrutiny) 	Brenda While and Phil Leivers
		 Children and Young People's Social Work Self- Evaluation 	Alison Hinds

Chair: Cllr Rita Potter	Vice Chair: Cllr	SEB Lead: Emma Bennett	Scrutiny Lead: Earl
	Adam Collinge		Piggott-Smith

Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author
13 October 2021	5 October 2021	 Feedback on the outcomes and lessons learnt from the YO! Summer festival Programme 	Alison Hinds (Visit to the Way)
		 SEND Strategy Action Plan Update 	Brenda Wile Helen Bakewell

Chair: Cllr Rita Potter	Vice Chair: Cllr	SEB Lead: Emma Bennett	Scrutiny Lead: Earl
	Adam Collinge		Piggott-Smith

Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author
2 February 2022	25 January 2022	Spotlight Safeguarding	
		 Report on the work of the Exploitation HUB and MASH 24 	Alison Hinds
		Virtual School – Progress Report	Darren Martindale
		Education Performance Report	Phil Leivers

Chair: Cllr Rita Potter	Vice Chair: Cllr	SEB Lead: Emma Bennett	Scrutiny Lead: Earl
	Adam Collinge		Piggott-Smith

Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication		Lead Report Author
47 March 0000	8 March 2022	Social Work Health Check	Jennifer Rogers
		 Social Workers in Schools: Evaluation Report 	Louise Anderson
17 March 2022	o March 2022	Supporting our vulnerable adolescents at risk of exploitation – including an update on Power2 Team	Rachel King

Stronger City Economy Scrutiny Panel - Draft Work Plan

Chair: Cllr Jacqueline	Vice Chair: Cllr	SEB Lead: Richard	Scrutiny Lead: Martin
Sweetman	Christopher Haynes	Lawrence	Stevens

Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author
15 July 2021	7 July 2021	Inward Investment and the Green Sector	Christopher Kirkland (Head Of City Investment) Richard Lawrence(Director Of Regeneration)
44.0.4.1		Culture, Creative and Visitor Economy	Richard Lawrence(Director Of Regeneration) Isobel Woods (Head Of Enterprise)
14 October 2021	6 October 2021	 Jobs, Skills and Learning Opportunities 	Julie Obada (Head Of Skills) Joanne Keatley (Head Of Adult Education)
17 February 2022	9 February 2022	Place Level Economic Scrutiny	

Health Scrutiny Panel - Draft Work Plan

Chair: Cllr Susan Robert MBE	Vice Chair: Cllr Paul Singh	SEB Lead: John Denley	Scrutiny Lead: Martin Stevens
Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author
8 July 2021	30 June 2021	Public Health Annual Report	John Denley (Director of Public Health)
		 Local Outbreak Control Plan- Updated 	John Denley (Director of Public Health)
		Healthwatch Contract Consultation	Becky Wilkinson (Deputy Director of Adult Services

Health Scrutiny Panel - Draft Work Plan

Chair: Cllr Susan Robert MBE	Vice Chair: Cllr Paul Singh	SEB Lead: John Denley	Scrutiny Lead: Martin Stevens
Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author
29 July 2021 Special Meeting	21 July 2021	Urology Services	Mike Sharon (RWT)
7 October 2021	29 September 2021	 Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust – Final Quality Accounts Healthwatch Annual Report Primary Care 	Alison Dowling – RWT (Head of Patient Experience and Public Involvement) Tracy Creswell Paul Tulley CCG
10 February 2022	2 February 2022	Babylon	David Laughton Chief Executive RWT

PROTECT

Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel - Draft Work Plan

Chair: Cllr Barbara	Vice Chair: Cllr Paul	SEB Lead: Ross Cook	Scrutiny Lead: Martin
McGarity QN	Appleby		Stevens

Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author
22 July 2021	14 July 2021	Wolverhampton Homes – WH Business Plan – Performance for 2020/2021	
		 Allocation Policy – Update on roll out of new policy 	
		 Housing Strategy – Update on current delivery of priorities 	

Vibrant and Sustainable City Scrutiny Panel - Draft Work Plan

Chair: Cllr Barbara	Vice Chair: Cllr Paul	SEB Lead: Ross Cook	Scrutiny Lead: Martin
McGarity QN	Appleby		Stevens

Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author
21 October 2021 13 October	13 October 2021	 Climate Change Action Plan Review (To be confirmed) 	
		WV Living – Performance and Future Direction	
3 March 2022	23 February 2022	To be determined	

Our Council Scrutiny Panel - Draft Work Plan

Chair: Cllr Zee Russell	Vice Chair: Cllr Udey Singh	SEB Lead: David Pattison, Claire Nye, Charlotte Johns	Scrutiny Lead: Earl Piggott Smith
Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author
		Our Assets Programme	Mark Bassett
		Update on Cyber Security	Charlotte Johns
29 September 2021	2021 21 September 2021	Council Contract Management Update	Claire Nye and Parvinder Uppal
		 Specific Reserves Working Group Membership and Terms of Reference 	Earl Piggott Smith
November date to be confirmed		EDI report on consultation findings and update on actions	David Pattison Jin Takhar
December date to be confirmed		 Meeting of the Specific Reserves Working Group 	Alison Shannon

Our Council Scrutiny Panel - Draft Work Plan

Chair: Cllr Zee Russell	Vice Chair: Cllr Udey Singh	SEB Lead: David Pattison, Claire Nye, Charlotte Johns	Scrutiny Lead: Earl Piggott Smith
Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author
19 January 2022	11 January 2022	Treasury Management Strategy	Alison Shannon
		Specific Reserves Working Group Report	Alison Shannon
		Our Assets Programme Update	Mark Bassett

Scrutiny Board – Draft Work Plan

Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author	Notes
21 September 2021	13 September 2021	Social Care, Public Health and Corporate Complaints Annual Report	Sarah Campbell, Customer Engagement Manager	
		 Private Sector Housing Briefing 	Chris Howell, Commercial Regulation Manager	
		 Work plans for Scrutiny Panel Meetings 	Scrutiny Leads and Panel Chairs	

Scrutiny Board – Draft Work Plan

Chair: Cllr Paul Sweet Vice Chair: Cllr SEB Lead: David Scrutiny Lead: Julia Pattison Cleary

Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author	Notes
7 December 2021	20 November 2021	Budget Consultation (to include an update on grants and spend)	Claire Nye, Director of Finance	
		Scrutiny Annual Review	Julia Cleary, Scrutiny and Systems Manager	
		 Customer Services update report – to be confirmed 	Lamour Gayle, Head of Customer Services	
		 Work plans for Scrutiny Panel Meetings 	Scrutiny Leads and Panel Chairs	

Scrutiny Board – Draft Work Plan

Chair: Cllr Paul Sweet Vice Chair: Cllr SEB Lead: David Scrutiny Lead: Julia Pattison Cleary

Date of Meeting	Agenda Publication	Item Description	Lead Report Author	Notes
22 March 2021	14 March 2021	 Update from Wolverhampton Policing (to be confirmed) 	Superintendent Simon Inglis	
		Annual LEP Update	Sarah Middleton	
		 Work plans for Scrutiny Panel Meetings 	Scrutiny Leads and Panel Chairs	

wolverhampton.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank