

Scrutiny Standing Panel Agenda



Housing Scrutiny Standing Panel Thursday, 21st July, 2005

Place: Council Chamber Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 5.00 pm

Democratic Services Officer: Zoe Folley (Direct Line:01992 564532)
zfolley@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Members:

Councillors S Murray (Chairman), Mrs R Gadsby (Vice-Chairman), K Angold-Stephens, R Chidley, P Gode, Mrs A Grigg, Mrs J Lea, L Martin, Mrs S Perry, T Richardson and Mrs J H Whitehouse

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS TO ATTEND

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (COUNCIL MINUTE 39 - 23.7.02)

(Head of Research and Democratic Services) To report the appointment of any substitute members for the meeting.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

(Head of Research and Democratic Services). To declare interests in any items on the agenda.

In considering whether to declare a personal or a prejudicial interest under the Code of Conduct, Overview & Scrutiny members are asked pay particular attention to paragraph 11 of the Code in addition to the more familiar requirements.

This requires the declaration of a personal and prejudicial interest in any matter before an OS Committee which relates to a decision of or action by another Committee or Sub Committee of the Council, a Joint Committee or Joint Sub Committee in which the Council is involved and of which the Councillor is also a member.

Paragraph 11 does not refer to Cabinet decisions or attendance at an OS meeting

purely for the purpose of answering questions or providing information on such a matter.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE / WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 5 - 6)

Recommendations:

(1) That the Terms of Reference and Work Programme 2005/6 for the Scrutiny Panel, agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (attached), be noted;

(2) That in compliance with the request made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its 9 June 2005 meeting consideration be given to the priority of work plan item 14 (Initiatives for Reducing the Number of Empty Properties in the Private Sector); and

(3) That the Panel agrees a preferred starting time for Panel meetings.

Report:

1. At its meeting held on 9 June 2005, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the Terms and Reference and Work Programme 2005/6 for the Housing Scrutiny Panel, which were proposed by the Chairman of the Panel in consultation with the Housing Portfolio Holder. These are attached, which the Panel is asked to note.

2. The Panel will note from the Work Programme that the minimum number of meetings is likely to be four per annum, which will be arranged on an ad hoc basis. However, it is probable that one or two additional meetings may be necessary during the year, dependent on the amount and timing of business to be considered.

3. Whilst considering the Programme, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed that the priority of review plan item 14(Initiatives for Reducing the Number of Empty Properties in the Private Sector) should be reconsidered. It suggested that the proposed priority did not match the importance of the subject especially in view of the fact that it would give the panel the opportunity to undertake 'new style' scrutiny investigations. It was agreed that this meeting would reconsider the issue.

4. The Panel is asked to agree a preferred starting time for Panel meetings.

5. HOUSING SERVICE STRATEGIES - OLDER PEOPLES SERVICES & HOUSING MANAGEMENT (PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION). (Pages 7 - 36)

To consider the attached report

6. INFORMATION EVENING AND BASIC HOUSING LAW BRIEFING FOR HOUSING SCRUTINY MEMBERS (Pages 37 - 38)

(Head of Housing Services) To consider the attached report.

7. ETHNIC MONITORING - HOUSING REGISTER AND ALLOCATIONS (Pages 39 - 40)

To consider the attached report

8. REPORTS TO BE MADE TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

To consider the reports to be made to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

9. FUTURE MEETINGS

To consider the forward programme of meeting dates for the Panel.