

SCRUTINY LEADS UPDATES OSC MEETING 20TH SEPTEMBER 2021

COUNCILLOR BEX - SCRUTINY LEAD FOR CHILDREN AND EDUCATION

1. At this month's committee, Members focused on: the mental health of young people, particularly during the pandemic but also forward-looking; an update on the Special educational needs and disability (SEND) inspection; and scrutiny of the Local Safeguarding Partnership. A key outcome from the meeting was that the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) were in attendance to present on safeguarding but have decided to follow-up on consulting with young people directly about services aimed at them. This was in large part due to the compelling testimony of the three young people who addressed the meetings, bringing their personal stories backed up by data.
2. The Chair has also met with the Corporate Director and Cabinet Lead Member to prepare for October's committee meeting, which will include a focus on the effectiveness of the School Streets programme, which is particularly pertinent in light of the recent furore around Liveable Streets.

COUNCILLOR EHTASHAM HAQUE- SCRUTINY LEAD FOR HOUSING AND REGENERATION

1. Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee Meetings 2021/22:

There are 5 meetings scheduled for the forthcoming year:

1. 22nd June – already held.
2. 9th September – already held – see note below:

and future meetings on:

3. 19th October
4. 2nd December
5. 15th March 2022

2. At the 9th September 2021 meeting:

We considered:

- The Social Landlord's Performance Report
- The report on the findings from the Fire Safety Scrutiny Review, following the "scoping session" on fire safety held at the previous meeting on the 22nd June 2021.
- Presentations on the action taken in response to the Allocations Audit Report and on the Intermediate Housing Register.

3. Actions arising from the Sub-Committee Meeting held on the 22nd June 2021:

- Alongside the Social Landlord's Performance Report, which was duly noted, we heard from a number of residents from Spitalfields Housing

Association. The chief officer from Spitalfields HA was invited to attend this meeting but was unable to attend. However, around I agreed that around 9 residents could attend the meeting in person and relay to the sub-committee their concerns over the way their association has been operating. Some of these concerns appear to be serious and I know that officers are following up on the matters raised.

- In terms of the Fire Safety Scrutiny Review Report, we agreed to recommend to the Mayor in Cabinet a set of 16 proposals on fire safety that residents had asked for following the scoping review in June. We agreed one amendment to the proposals in the report that asked for the council to consider undertaking its own “resident focussed” investigation into the fire at New Providence Wharf as we considered that it would add value to understand the problems encountered by residents after the fire and would not duplicate the work of the LFB who were investigating the cause of the fire.

The report was supplemented by an appendix that provided a full response to the scoping document that residents had shaped and a further appendix that contained the specification for the council’s fire safety portal; the revamped website that would provide comprehensive information on fire safety to residents. This project is already underway as all costs are being contained within existing budgets.

- We received a presentation on the outcome of the Audit Report published in May, earlier this year, that looked at the council’s housing allocations system, examining the systems and controls in place for assessing, approving, and prioritising applications to the Housing Register, and resulting lettings, to ensure that decisions taken are in accordance with council policy and statutory guidance. As a result, the audit investigation, the Housing Options team has implemented “best practice” to improve the service delivered to applicants.
- Finally, there was a presentation on the new Intermediate Housing Register of Interest that has been developed to assist residents in band 3 on the councils housing register and those renting in the private sector secure more affordable and “arguably” better accommodation.

4. The Items to be considered at the next meeting on the 19th October 2021:

Item	Actions/Recommendations
Policy Framework Scrutiny - Social Landlords Performance Report	Focussed discussion on performance of THH RPs with an invitation sent to the chief officer at Spitalfields HA to attend.
Spotlight Report - Economic Growth - Employment	Discussion with stakeholders on the progress made on improving employment outcomes for residents with a focus on partnership working opportunities.
Spotlight Report - Regeneration Framework	Presentation on the benefits/outcomes of the council's regeneration work with input from stakeholders focussing on the impact of council's recent approach to regeneration.

5. Other Actions:

(N/A)

LEEMA QURESHI SCRUTINY LEAD UPDATE FOR SCRUTINY LEAD FOR RESOURCES AND FINANCE

1. Following the August recess the Chair is planning to hold a challenge session on Workforce Diversity in December and will be planning to meet with officers to discuss their portfolio areas.