

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
14 JUNE 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held in the Delyn Committee Room, County Hall, Mold, CH7 6NA on Wednesday, 14 June 2017.

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Dunbar (Vice Chair in the Chair)

Councillors: Sian Braun, Jean Davies, Ron Davies, Rosetta Dolphin, Ian Dunbar, Mared Eastwood, Dennis Hutchinson, Ted Palmer, Michelle Perfect, Mike Reece, and Paul Shotton.

SUBSTITUTIONS: Councillors Haydn Bateman (for George Hardcastle), Patrick Heesom (for Ray Hughes) and David Wisinger (for Ron Hampson)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Bernie Attridge, Deputy Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Housing

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Christine Jones and Vicky Perfect

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Derek Butler, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise), and Enterprise and Regenerations Manager

IN ATTENDANCE: Democratic Services Manager and Committee Officer

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Democratic Services Manger advised that it had been confirmed at the Annual Meeting of the County Council that the Chair of the Committee should come from the Labour Group. As Councillor Ron Hampson had been appointed to this role by the Group, the Committee was asked to endorse the decision.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Ron Hampson be confirmed as the Chairman of the Committee.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor Haydn Bateman nominated Councillor Ian Dunbar as Vice-Chair of the Committee. This was seconded by Councillor Paul Shotton.

On being put to the vote Councillor Ian Dunbar was appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee. Councillor Ian Dunbar took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Following a suggestion by Councillor Dennis Hutchinson, it was agreed that the Democratic Services Manager would send a letter on behalf of the

Committee to express best wishes to the Chair for a quick and speedy recovery.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Ian Dunbar be appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2017 were submitted.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. STATEMENT REGARDING GRENFELL TOWER

As the Cabinet Member had been unable to attend the meeting, the Chief Officer (Community & Enterprise) made a statement on his behalf She explained that further to the sad and very shocking news from London regarding the fire at Grenfell Tower the council's Housing Service is writing to its tenants to explain the protective measures we have in place to ensure the safety of our tenants in the event of a fire.

In Flintshire we have three high rise properties. These are Castle Heights, Bolingbroke Heights and Richard Heights in Flint. Each of these is subject to a regulatory fire risk assessment. They have all been recently refurbished with a number of protective measures included in that refurbishment. These measures include:

- The installation of sprinkler systems. Sprinklers are located throughout tenants' properties and communal areas. Meetings for tenants were held with the Fire and Rescue Service to explain the reasons behind the installation of the sprinklers and key fire safety advice.
- The installation of protective fire doors to all tenants' properties.
- The refurbishment of the three Heights also included the installation of external wall insulation. In deciding the type of insulation for our properties, our background research included visits to the Fire and Rescue Services training centre in the Midlands to see demonstrations to help us determine the appropriate external wall insulation to fit in our properties.

- Throughout all our high rise properties we have smoke detectors in tenants' hallways as well as heat detectors in kitchens; and the detectors are monitored.
- In communal areas (stairwells, scooter rooms, laundry and community centres), we have smoke detectors which are directly monitored by the Fire and Rescue Service. Smoke detectors are also in place in our maintenance areas (boiler and generator plant rooms, as well as bin stores).

In addition to the physical protective measures we ensure that we have a rigorous set of inspection regimes covering all aspects of the property. These measures include:

- Fire risk assessments (Castle Heights was conducted February 2017; Bolingbroke Heights December 2016, and Richard Heights February 2017);
- Weekly alarm testing;
- Quarterly inspections of smoke detectors; testing of emergency lighting on a monthly basis;
- 6 monthly independent checks of all fire extinguishers;
- Production of a weekly fire log which identifies tenants movements;
- Development of personal emergency evacuation plans identifying individual tenant's abilities to evacuate in the event of an emergency.

Later on Wednesday, 14 June, staff would be visiting all our tenants within the high rise properties to provide information on the measures we have in place and to reassure them as to the commitment we have as a council to their personal safety.

6. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the public or the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 10.00am and ended at 10.05am)

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Chairman