

# Agenda

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## Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

Date: **Wednesday 5 October 2016**

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Time: **5.00 pm**

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Place: **Plowman Room - Town Hall**

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As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record the meeting please let the Contact Officer know how you wish to do this before the start of the meeting.

# Housing Panel (Panel of the Scrutiny Committee)

## Membership

<b>Chair</b>	Councillor David Henwood	
	Councillor Angie Goff	
	Councillor Jennifer Pegg	
	Councillor Gill Sanders	
	Councillor David Thomas	
	Councillor Elizabeth Wade	
	Geno Humphrey (Housing Panel co-optee)	Housing Panel co-optee

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# AGENDA

## Pages

### 1 APOLOGIES

Substitutes are not allowed.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

### 3 HOUSING PERFORMANCE - QUARTER 1

9 - 10

Background Information
<p>The Housing Panel has a role in monitoring Council performance against housing targets. This report contains outcomes at the end of 2016/17 quarter 1 (June 2016) for a set of housing performance indicators.</p>
<p>Why is it on the agenda?</p>
<p>For the Panel to note and comment on housing performance at the end of 2016/17 quarter 1. The Panel will receive a performance report for quarter 2 (September 2016) in November.</p>
<p>Who has been invited to comment?</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cllr Mike Rowley, Board Member for Housing;</li><li>• Bill Graves, Landlord Services Manager.</li></ul>



### 4 CHOICE BASED LETTINGS REFUSAL REASONS

11 - 22

Background Information
<p>The Housing Panel in considered proposed changes to the Choice Based Lettings scheme for the allocation of social housing in December 2015. At that meeting the Panel requested further data and analysis around why approximately 15% of offers of suitable accommodation had been refused, including reasons that were considered to be reasonable and unreasonable. The Panel also recommended that officers explore positive ways of reducing the number of offers of housing that were refused.</p>

Why is it on the agenda?
For the Panel to receive a report back on Choice Based Lettings refusal reasons. The Panel is asked to note and comment the report and may wish to agree one or more recommendations to put to the City Executive Board in November.
Who has been invited to comment?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Mike Rowley, Board Member for Housing;</li> <li>• Tom Porter, Allocations Manager.</li> </ul>

**5 UNDER-OCCUPATION IN THE COUNCIL’S HOUSING STOCK**

23 - 36

Background Information
The Panel requested a report on measures to tackle under-occupation in the Council’s housing stock when agreeing its work plan for 2016/17. This follows a previous report in February 2015.
Why is it on the agenda?
The Panel is asked to note and comment on the report. The Panel may also wish to agree one or more recommendations to put to the City Executive Board in November.
Who has been invited to comment?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Mike Rowley, Board Member for Housing;</li> <li>• Bill Graves, Landlord Services Manager.</li> </ul>

**6 ENERGY STRATEGY - HOUSING & PROPERTY**

37 - 52

Background Information
The Panel asked to pre-scrutinise a decision on the Council’s Housing Energy Strategy. This decision was deferred indefinitely but in it was agreed that a briefing would be provided to the Housing Panel and this item was included in the Panel’s work plan for 2016/17.

Why is it on the agenda?
The Panel is asked to note and comment on the report and presentation (to be circulated separately). The Panel may also wish to agree one or more recommendations to put to the City Executive Board in November.
Who has been invited to comment?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Mike Rowley, Board Member for Housing;</li> <li>• Debbie Haynes, Energy Efficiency Projects Officer.</li> </ul>

## **7 HOUSING PANEL WORK PLAN**

53 - 66

For the Panel to note and agree its work plan, which can be adjusted to reflect the wishes of the Panel.

The Scrutiny Officer will introduce the work plan and advise the Panel on any suggested changes to it.

## **8 NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

67 - 72

For the Panel to agree and note the record of the meeting held on 7 July 2016.

## **9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

9 November 2016  
1 March 2017  
3 May 2017

All meetings begin at 5.00pm.

The Panel are also invited to join with Finance Panel members in scrutinising housing budget proposals and the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan in a private session on 10 January 2017 from 5.30pm.

## **DECLARING INTERESTS**

### **General duty**

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

### **What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?**

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your\* employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licences for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

### **Declaring an interest**

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest.

If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

### **Members' Code of Conduct and public perception**

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". What this means is that the matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

\*Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those of the member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

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b)

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