



## RESOURCES AND SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<b>DATE:</b>	Thursday, 9 July 2020
<b>TIME:</b>	7.30 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Meeting will be held in accordance with SI 2020/392. Link to the live stream is found here:  <a href="https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/livemeetings">https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/livemeetings</a>

### MEMBERSHIP:

<b>Councillor M Stephenson (Chairman)</b>	<b>Councillor Codling</b>
<b>Councillor Scott (Vice-Chairman)</b>	<b>Councillor Griffiths</b>
<b>Councillor Allen</b>	<b>Councillor Morrison</b>
<b>Councillor Barry</b>	<b>Councillor Turner</b>
<b>Councillor Bray</b>	

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**Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, or on disc, tape, or in other languages.**

**For further details and general enquiries about this meeting, contact Keith Simmons Tel: 01255 686580 or by Email: [democraticservices@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@tendringdc.gov.uk)**

DATE OF PUBLICATION: Wednesday, 1 July, 2020

## AGENDA

### 1 **Apologies for Absence and Substitutions**

The Committee is asked to note any apologies for absence and substitutions received from Members.

### 2 **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee, held on Monday 22 June 2020.

(N.B. The Minutes are not included with this Agenda and will be forwarded to the members of the Committee in due course.)

### 3 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors are invited to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Personal Interest, and the nature of it, in relation to any item on the agenda.

### 4 **Questions on Notice pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 38 (Pages 1 - 16)**

Subject to providing two working days' notice, a Member of the Committee may ask the Chairman of the Committee a question on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties which affect the Tendring District and which falls within the terms of reference of the Committee.

Councillor Chris Griffiths will ask the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor Mark Stephenson:-

*"In regard to the Spendells item on the agenda for Cabinet, Friday, 26, June:-*

- 1. Can you clarify why we are showing a base budget for 20/21 of £187,030, which, according to one of the appendix documents excludes employee costs? Given that there is a cost centre for employees' involvement in using Spendells as temporary accommodation, why are direct and indirect staff, based, or providing services at the site, not included in the cost?*
- 2. I note the decision is to change this complex to emergency housing. Given that the clientele could range from homeless families, to single parents, couples, and single individuals, with an element of communal shower / washing facilities, what provisions are in place to screen individuals before we agree to accommodate them in Spendells?*

*How do we as an authority intend to safeguard the vulnerable to ensure that we do not have residents living next door to individuals who have the ability to have an adverse impact on their well-being?*

*For example, can we guarantee that we will not have an individual with an unhealthy interest in small children dwelling next door to a single mother, or those with a drug, alcohol or mental health issue living next to a family?"*

The Report and Appendices submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet held on 26 June 2020 are attached to this agenda.

## **5 Overview and Scrutiny of Housing Issues (Pages 17 - 68)**

The Committee will conduct overview and scrutiny on the theme of Housing with particular emphasis on service delivery and performance in relation to:-

### **(a) Private Sector Housing Financial Assistance Policy**

The Committee will look specifically at Disabled Facilities Grants: the processes, the timescales, any obstacles to delivery and options for solutions (and whether those options have been pursued) and the relative advantages of pooling.

The report and the appendix to that report submitted to Cabinet at its meeting held on 26 June 2020 are attached to this agenda.

### **(b) Vacated/Empty Council Housing ('Voids')**

The Committee intends to look at the numbers of empty properties there have been over the past year, the proportion that those represent of the entire Council housing estate, expectations on standards of vacated properties, the extent to which the vacated properties were subject to major/minor repair works, the target times for inspecting vacated properties once they are empty and for repairs to be conducted, the periods of time properties were empty, the lost rental income during the period it was empty and the cost of housing homeless persons in the same period. It is envisaged that the enquiry will also cover the situation one year on from the Council taking back the ROALCO Ltd contract (following the company being placed in administration), the transfer of staff to the Council and responding to the immediate issue this posed and planning for sustaining the work now and in the future.

If the above enquiry is not feasible at the meeting it may be that arrangements for it are agreed at the meeting.

### **(c) Council Housing Tenant Satisfaction and Involvement**

The Committee will look at the measurement processes in relation to tenant satisfaction levels and tenant participation arrangements.

### **(d) New Build of 10 Council Houses in Jaywick Sands**

The Committee will look at the project and delivery of those 10 houses and whether there are lessons for further development there and for the emerging Acquisitions and Development Strategy of the Council.

The Performance Report for 2019/20 as presented to Cabinet at its meeting held on 29 May 2020 included this project at Page 10 of the above report. Page 21 of that report also references Council House Building and the emerging Acquisitions and Development Strategy.

The aforementioned Pages 10 and 21 are attached to this agenda.

A report(s) of the Assistant Director (Housing and Environment) in respect of the above items will be produced and circulated to the members of the Committee in due course.

**Date of the Next Scheduled Meeting**

*The next scheduled meeting of the Resources and Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to be held on Thursday 13 August 2020 at 7.30 p.m. The Meeting will be held in accordance with SI 2020/392.*