

## **COMMUNITIES, REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Neil Butterworth (In the Chair); Councillors Susan Emmott, Hartley, Malcolm, Nickson, O'Neill, O'Rourke, Stott, and Winkler

**OFFICERS:** D Bowler (Assistant Director – Place), C Abbott (Neighbourhoods Directorate) and C Denyer (Resources Directorate)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** A Havens (Rochdale Boroughwide Housing)

#### **APOLOGIES**

13 Apologies were received from Councillors Wazir, West and Zaheer.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

14 Further to the Council's Code of Conduct, Councillor Susan Emmott declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 6 – RBH Performance report -insofar as she is a tenant of a Rochdale Boroughwide Housing property.

#### **MINUTES**

15 **DECIDED – That the Minutes of the meeting of the Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017 be approved as a correct record.**

#### **RBH PERFORMANCE REPORT**

16 The Committee scrutinised a report of the Director of Neighbourhoods which provided Members with an update on the performance of Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (RBH) for 2016/17 in relation to the achievement of the aspirations, commitments and promises set out in the Council's Stock Transfer Agreement with RBH. Promises were initiatives or projects that RBH had committed to deliver. Commitments were described as pre-transfer service levels that RBH were required to maintain and aspirations were the things that RBH said they would like to do, but were not guaranteed. The report also provided some additional key performance information and updated the Committee on the organisation's housing development programme and how RBH were working in partnership with the Council, local agencies, other registered providers and the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to deliver key strategic priorities.

The Committee was advised that the stock transfer agreement required RBH to provide performance information to the Council for a 5 year period following the stock transfer from 2012/13 up to 2015/16 and consequently the submitted report provided the final one where performance information for RBH was be provided separately as the RBH performance information will be included within the overall annual Registered Provider report in the future.

In considering the report, the Committee sought clarification on the number of Member complaints and enquiries that had been satisfactorily concluded; the number of properties that had been sold under the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire Schemes; the number of new properties that had been built and the number that were under development; the percentage of apprentices who had gained permanent employment with RBH and the percentage of contracts awarded to local firms.

A query was raised regarding whether a strategy had been developed by RBH to improve dilapidated properties that had been purchased under the right to buy scheme. The Assistant Director (Place) advised that there was currently an Empty Property Strategy to bring properties back into use across the Borough but that RBH did not have a Strategy for this work on their estates.

**DECIDED – That (1) the report be noted; and  
(2) the Assistant Director (Place) be requested to provide  
Members with the details of the number of RBH properties that had been  
sold under the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire Schemes.**

**COMMUNITIES, REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18**

17 The Committee considered the updated Communities, Regeneration and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2017/18.

**DECIDED – That the Communities, Regeneration and Environment  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2017/18 be noted.**