

HOUSING COMMITTEE ADDENDUM 1

4.00PM, WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2020

SKYPE MEETING

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ADDENDUM

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Public Questions

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by a member of the public.

The question will be answered without discussion. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion. The person to whom a question, or supplementary question has been put may decline to answer it.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public.

Dave Croydon

Question:

I'd like to welcome the new Executive Director and ask if she would be willing to meet with the Brighton and Hove Housing Coalition to talk about her previous experiences and what she hopes to achieve during her stay in Brighton.

Barry Hughes

Question:

We welcome the references to the Homeless Bill of Rights in the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy before the Committee. They demand a question. The promises made in the Labour and Green manifestos more than a year ago and the Joint Housing Programme almost nine months ago relate to the adoption of the Homeless Bill of Rights, as did the petition presented to full Council on 25th July last year.

When is the City of Brighton and Hove actually going to adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights?

David Thomas

We congratulate officers and councillors on the response to the notice of motion, and all the hard work that has gone into the tremendous response to the covid-19 pandemic.

We have a question about the aspirations of the council in the post-pandemic world. It is gestured towards in the response, but it is absent from the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, perhaps understandably in this crisis still a very scanty and unambitious document.

Is the Council committed to providing in the future year-round accommodation, with individual rooms rather than shared space, available to all homeless people without precondition?

Public Question (Redacted)

Background: I become homeless after going into private rented accommodation due to moving out of hostels, I then become homeless due to a misunderstanding of universal credits and rent. I was therefore placed in to emergency accommodation. I reported on numerous occasions about disrepairs not only in my room but the whole building. I was then evicted. My whole experience in the last 9 months has been the hardest I've had to deal with in my life.

Question:

Can the council provide a detailed overview of what day to day support people like myself receive from when we are placed into unsupported emergency accommodation?

Charles Harrison

Question:

***Item 8 Solar PV programme.** Item 4.20 mentions a major risk of **Grid Capacity** in Brighton and Hove, which may result in refusal of some grid connection agreements. I also note the statement that "the Council has no control over this".*

Our commitment to be Carbon Zero by 2030 will make us more dependent on electrical power as we phase out fossil fuels.

Does the Committee agree that this serious constraint on our Climate Emergency Action Plan is a risk that must be properly and regularly monitored for likelihood and impact and mitigated effectively?

Has the Council considered escalating this to UK Power Networks and Central Government?

Public Question (Redacted)

Background: Our family have been placed into emergency accommodation hostels in Brighton and Eastbourne. We were placed into unaffordable

Temporary Accommodation, that's 8 times in 4 years. My neighbours have security and an affordable council home. This month we have £79 to live off.

Question: you define this as suitable placement under homelessness policy, can you explain how you expect us to live and survive on £79 a month?

Daniel Harris

Background: Can I welcome the new plans for extra in-house services such as pier place, campaigners had originally identified this building four years ago. I've had a lot of issues reported to me from residents living in privately run emergency accommodation's in and out of the city, incidents such as; serious assaults, security concerns, reports of drug dealing and county lines, death in WCH and a revenge eviction; the feedback from residents is they feel isolated, neglected and alone.

Question: The Feedback from the Kendal Court health watch report is clear, better facilities, more support and faster pathways into more secure and settled are needed. Can the council tell me what they have learned from that and similar reports into private sector run emergency accommodation?

John Hadman

Question:

Gladstone Court. *I am pleased that BHCC approved the purchase of Gladstone Court at the HC Meeting on 15 Jan 2020, agenda item 52.*

I understand these 80's flats were refurbished in 2013 and improvements are recommended to fire compartmentation, windows, pumped FW drainage, communal heating system, PV installations, lift, etc, as report item nrs 3.07 to 3.12.

I note that a total investment of £1.4m is estimated for the refurbishment of these 38 flats, or £750k to bring them to a lettable standard (report item 3.12).

Would you please confirm the scope of these improvement works, indicative cost breakdowns, procurement approach and timescale, currently planned?

Questions submitted from Members:

Conservative Members Questions for 17 June 2020 Housing Committee

Cllr Mary Mears:

How many people who were verified rough sleepers have been accommodated between 27 March (as the date local authorities were instructed to bring everyone in) and the 14.06.2020 and how this compares to the same period last year.

Cllr Dawn Barnett:

How will the chair of housing address council tenants' concerns after the change from estate inspections to work undertaken by Field Officers, despite funding for the service from the HRA towards their posts. Tenants feel that the service has deteriorated under Field Officers and their estates are being neglected.

Cllr Dawn Barnett:

Can the Chair of Housing provide details as to (i) the total number of Field Officers, (ii) the number actually working on housing-related issues, and (iii) the approximate percentage of overall Field Officer time that is spent on housing-related issues?

Green Group Questions for Housing committee on 17th June 2020

From Cllr Alex Phillips

- 1) For the last week, 7-14 June, how many new verified rough sleepers were found and housed and how many other homeless households were housed by housing options?
- 2) For the week 7-14 June, how many rough sleepers and how many other homeless households lacking a local connection were safely reconnected?
- 3) As of 15 June how many rough sleepers and other homeless are living in hotels, student halls and other emergency accommodation?
- 4) As of 15 May how many rough sleepers and other homeless had been accommodated in hotels, student halls and other emergency accommodation?
- 5) As of 15 June what was the room capacity of symptomatic, hotel, guesthouse and student accommodation acquired and what is the occupancy of these rooms?

From Cllr David Gibson

- 6) As of 14 June, how many Personal Housing Plans had housing options completed since beginning of April for a) Verified rough sleepers b) other homeless people housed in the lockdown

- 7) How many of 10 additional Housing First group taken on for the year 19/20 have secured settled accommodation and how many are still waiting to be housed through the Council Interest Queue under the allocations policy?
- 8) What have been the maximum and minimum symptomatic facility occupancy rates during May and up to week commencing Monday 8 June expressed as a percentage of the capacity for the building? What was the average occupancy rate in this period?
- 9) Please provide the number of evictions from emergency accommodation for 1 April 2018- 31 March 2019 and for 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 and for each year please indicate the percentage that were re-accommodated following eviction.
- 10) Please provide as a table the number of evictions in emergency accommodation for 18/19 and 19/20 (requested above) broken down for each of the following accommodation providers (Baron Homes, Helgor trading (and new owner of Helgor properties), Moretons, Colgate and Gray, and spot purchase) expressed as a percentage of the number of units provided by each of the providers.
- 11) How many allocations under the Council Interest Queue were made to Families Children and Learning and to Adult Social care between 1 August 2017 and 1 March 2020*? (and what was the total number of allocations for this period?)
- 12) How many verified Rough Sleeper benefit claims are completed for:
 - a) Verified rough sleepers
 - b) Other homeless people housed since lockdown?

From Cllr Martin Osborne

- 13) Between 1 May 2019 and 1 June 2020 how many:
 - homes were sold under the right to buy?
 - additional council homes provided?
 - additional council homes provided at LHA rents?
 - additional council homes provided at 37.5% Living wage rents?
 - additional council homes provided at 27.5% Living wage rents (Ie Living rents)?
 - additional council homes provided at social rents?

* If data not known to the 1st of March 2020 then as late as possible
- 14) What provision is being made in anticipation of demand from those likely to be evicted from private rented sector accommodation when the embargo is lifted?
- 15) What was the rent collection rate in a) emergency and b) temporary housing
 - c) council owned housing for the months 1) Jan and Feb 2020 and for months 2) April and May 2020?

From Cllr Siriol Hugh Jones

16. How many rough sleepers have been identified with no recourse to public funds and what steps have been taken to put them in touch with voluntary organisations that could provide support?
17. What provision has been put in place for rough sleepers with dogs?

18. As the lockdown measures have relaxed, what has been the incidence of former rough sleepers leaving their interim accommodation? What follow up measures are taken when this occurs?
19. How many have left and are known to be rough sleeping again?
20. How many verified rough sleepers refused the offer of accommodation?
21. What was the expenditure on responsive repairs of council accommodation for a) Jan and Feb 2020 and b) April and May 2020?

HOUSING COMMITTEE

17th June 2020

Agenda Item 8

Brighton & Hove City Council

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

SOLAR PHOTVOLTAIC INSTALLATION PROGRAMME 2020-2030

CROSS-PARTY GREEN GROUP/LABOUR GROUP AMENDMENT

To amend the report's recommendations as shown below in ***bold italics***:

That Housing Committee;

2.1 Delegates authority to the Executive Director, Housing Neighbourhoods & Communities to take all steps necessary to:

2.1.1 procure and award a contract for the installation of ***a minimum of up to 500 and a maximum of 1000*** domestic solar PV arrays for the period 2020-2023, ***the budget for the first 500 to be allocated as set out in 2.2. below, with the additional 500 to be commissioned subject to grid and contractor capacity as referred to in paragraphs 4.18-4.20 below and to the necessary additional budget approval from Policy & Resources Committee;***

2.1.2

increase this ~~up to~~ ***at least 21500*** installations by 2026 subject to further Committee approval of budget allocation and ***the constraints set out in paragraphs 4.18-4.20 below additional installs but mindful of the council having approximately 4000 domestic properties suitable for such arrays.***

2.2 Recommends ~~to~~ Policy & Resources Committee ~~to~~ allocate the following additional budget to allow for the delivery of ***the initial*** 500 domestic solar PV arrays for the period 2020-23:

- 2021/22: £875k;
- 2022/23: £875k;

2.3 requests that a report covering the scope to expand the solar PV programme be brought to Committee no later than the fourth quarter of 2021 i.e. ahead of 2022 Budget Council.

Proposed by: Cllr Hugh-Jones

Seconded by: Cllr Fowler

