



SELECT COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 18th January 2023

(Meeting to follow the Select (Crime and Disorder) Committee meeting)

Meeting to be held at Belle Vue Square Offices, Belle Vue Suite, Skipton

Committee Members: The Chair (Councillor Staveley) and Councillors Brown, Harbron, Hull, Ireton, Jaquin, Lis, Mercer, Pighills, Shuttleworth, Solloway and Whitaker.

Please note the following advice in advance of the meeting:

Whilst there is no longer a legal requirement to wear a face covering or continue to social distance, please be considerate towards the wellbeing of others.

Anyone showing Covid symptoms or feeling unwell, are asked not to attend and in-person meeting, this is in the interest of general infection control. Further guidance can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – To receive any apologies for absence.
- 2. Minutes** – To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2022.
- 3. Public Participation** – In the event that questions are received, the Chair will conduct the public participation session for a period of up to fifteen minutes. Where questions are asked, one related supplementary question may be permitted at the Chairman's discretion.
- 4. Declarations of Interest** – All Members are invited to declare at this point any interests they have on items appearing on this agenda, including the nature of those interests and whether they wish to apply the exception below.

Note: Declarations should be in the form of either:

- a **“disclosable pecuniary interest”** under Appendix A to the Code of Conduct, in which case the Member must leave the meeting room; or
- an **“other interest”** under Appendix B of the Code. For these interests, the Member may stay in the meeting room, although they must leave if membership of the organisation results in a conflict of interest.

Exception: Where a member of the public has a right to speak at a meeting, a Member who has a disclosable pecuniary interest or an other interest and must leave the room, has the same rights and may make representations, answer questions or give evidence, but at the conclusion of that, must then leave the room and not take part in the discussion or vote.

5. Select Committee Working Group: Housing Standards in the Craven District – Terms of Reference – Report of the Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager. Attached.

Purpose of Report – To set out the Terms of Reference for the Select Committee Working Group on Housing Standards in the Craven District

6. Any Other Items which the Chair decides are urgent in accordance with Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting –

Wednesday, 15 March 2023 at 6.30pm – Select Committee.

Agenda Contact Officer:

David Smith,
Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer
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AGENDA ITEM 2

SELECT COMMITTEE

20 October 2022

Present – The Chair (Councillor Staveley) and Councillors Jaquin, Shuttleworth and Solloway.

Officers – Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer.

Start: 6.33pm

Finish: 7:00pm

Apologies for Absence –

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brown, Hull, Ireton, Mercer and Pighills.

Confirmation of Minutes –

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held 13th July 2022 are signed and approved as a correct record.

Public Participation –

There was no public participation.

Declarations of Interest –

None.

Minutes for Report

OS.484

Select Committee Working Group Terms of Reference

The Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer submitted a report asking Members to approve the Select Committee Working Group's Terms of Reference.

After some discussion, Members agreed that they would like to hear the views of additional local law firms. For example, they felt it would be useful to hear from the legal representation used at Licensing Hearing appeals. Members agreed that the Terms of Reference should make it clear that the Working Group wishes to enquire if justice in both the criminal and quasi-judicial licensing courts is being served locally. Members also agreed that making recommendations on how the working arrangements at Skipton Magistrates Court could be changed should be added to the Terms of Reference.

Resolved – That the Select Committee Working Group's Terms of Reference are approved, subject to the following amendments:

- (1) Amending 'Whether justice is being served locally.' to 'Whether justice in the criminal and quasi-judicial licensing courts is being served locally.' in Paragraph 3.

AGENDA ITEM 2

- (2) Adding 'To make recommendations to ensure that justice is being fairly heard in Craven, unless there are exceptional circumstances, and will remain this way in the future.' to Paragraph 3.

OS.485 **Select Committee Working Group Update and Discussion**

Members raised the following points:

- (1) It was stressed that the Working Group should hear from North Yorkshire Police so that they can understand how the working arrangements at Skipton Magistrates Court affect them. Members specifically wanted to understand whether those released on bail could be bailed to Skipton, rather than Harrogate, and whether there was also a Police operational matter due to Police Officers having to travel long distances.
- (2) Members also questioned who else the Working Group should hear from. One suggestion was hearing from the legal representation used by the Council when attending Licensing Hearing Appeals.

OS.486 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Select Committee Working Group - Wednesday, 16 November 2022 at 6.30pm (Virtual).

Select Committee (Crime and Disorder) – Wednesday, 18th January at 6.00pm.

Select Committee – Wednesday, 18th January 2023 at 7.00pm.

Chairman.



Select Committee Working Group

Housing Standards in the Craven District

Terms of Reference

Introduction

1. After the Regulator of Social Housing investigating the tragic death of Awaab Ishak found widespread failings at Rochdale Boroughwide Housing, Members of Select Committee felt it was necessary to convene a working group to establish if property conditions in both social and private housing in the Craven District were at a satisfactory standard.
2. Members agreed to look at and review the current situation and discuss any additional steps that could be taken to ensure properties were satisfactory.

Scope of the review

1. The purpose of the review is to ensure that housing providers (social and private) within the Craven District are suitably checking that their housing provision meets legal standards.
2. Members may request details from housing providers and CDC's Environmental Health / Housing Manager regarding how damp and mould hazards are reported by tenants and actioned by the housing provider / private landlord.
3. Members may invite housing providers and CDC's Environmental Health / Housing Manager to speak at meetings or provide written information so that the Working Group can gain a better understanding of the condition of Craven's housing stock and establish whether the continuing authority should be carrying out further work into this issue.

4. Members may request details of how housing providers are developing their long-term strategies to include energy efficient initiatives, especially in future new builds.

Desired outcomes and measures of success

1. To make a decision on whether the current checks are robust enough to ensure no properties are at a sub-standard state. After evaluating the key findings, the Working Group may recommend that the new Unitary Authority Housing Scrutiny Board carry out further investigation to ensure that housing stock in Craven is safe and meets legal standards, both now and in the future.

Timetable for the review

1. The review will take place over three sessions and if the Working Group feel it is necessary, a report will be presented to Policy Committee. Work will be passed on to the North Yorkshire Council if required.

Submission of evidence and witnesses

1. Three meetings have been scheduled:

• Session One –	Select Committee Meeting – 18 January 2023
• Session Two –	Working Group Meeting – 1 February 2023
• Session Three –	Working Group Meeting – 15 February 2023

- **Session One** – Select Committee Meeting – **18 January 2023** (agreeing Terms of Reference and further fact finding)
- **Session Two** – Working Group Meeting – **1 February 2023** (with housing providers)
- **Session Three** – Working Group Meeting - **15 February 2023** (agree on recommendations to be presented to Policy Committee if required)

Monitoring arrangements

1. Following completion of the review and agreement of recommendations, Members may request that the new Unitary Authority (North Yorkshire Council) monitors the recommendations made by the Working Group.