

**EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
NOTES OF A MEETING OF STRONGER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2023
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES
AT 7.00 PM**

Members Present:	J Lea (Chairman), J Lucas (Vice-Chairman), C Amos, R Balcombe, S Murray, C Nweke, D Stocker, D Wixley, S Yerrell and H Kane
Co-opted Member:	W Marshall
Other members present:	S Kane, C Whitbread and H Whitbread
Other members virtually:	R Pugsley and J H Whitehouse
Apologies for Absence:	I Hadley
Officers Present:	J Gould (Interim Strategic Director), P Maginnis (Service Director (Corporate Services)), S Lewis (Customer Services Manager), P Wharfe (Interim Service Director (Housing Revenue Account)), G Woodhall (Team Manager - Democratic & Electoral Services), L Halmshaw (Higher Level Apprentice), R Moreton (Corporate Communications Officer) and R Perrin (Democratic and Electoral Services Officer)
Officers present virtually:	V Messenger (Democratic Services Officer)

THIS MEETING WAS RECORDED LIVE AND CAN BE VIEWED [HERE](#)

42. WEBCASTING INTRODUCTION

The Chairman reminded everyone present that this meeting would be broadcast live to the Internet, and that the Council had adopted a protocol for the webcasting of its meetings.

43. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

The Committee noted that Councillor H Kane had been appointed as substitute for Councillor I Hadley.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest pursuant to the Council's Members' Code of Conduct.

45. TERMS OF REFERENCE & WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the Terms of Reference and Work Programme.

The Chairman advised the Committee that the Resident Involvement Strategy would be considered in the new municipal year.

46. CUSTOMER SERVICE STRATEGY UPDATE

The Team Manager, Customer Services, S Lewis presented a Customer Services Strategy update report and what residents had been telling the council.

Members asked several questions on the report and answers were provided by the Officers and Portfolio Holder in attendance.

Resolved:

1. That further information would be provided via the Members Bulletin following the success of the Warm Places initiative and the continued work with community groups.
2. That the Committee puts on record its thanks to the front-line staff and waste officers for the service they had provided to ensure residents were kept informed.

47. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE

The Interim Housing & Property Director, P Wharfe presented an interim update on the HRA Business Plan. It was noted that the stock condition survey was underway, and an Asset Management Strategy would be produced alongside the HRA Business Plan. It would be presented to the Committee in October 2023 and annually onwards.

Members asked a number of questions on the report and answers were provided by the officer in attendance.

Resolved:

That the Committee reviewed the interim HRA Business Plan update.

Actions:

1. That HRA Business Plan is presented to the Committee in October 2023.
2. That the Asset Management Strategy is presented to the Committee before adoption.

48. DISCUSSION PAPER - OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE 2023/24

The Team Manager for Democratic Services and Elections, G Woodhall advised the Committee that the Constitutional Working Group had considered a report on the proposed Overview and Scrutiny Committee Structure for 2023/24 at their meeting on Thursday 16 March 2023.

It was proposed that they would recommend option 1 to Council, but requested that the next available scrutiny committee should consider the report before it was presented to Council on 4 April 2023 for adoption.

Members asked several questions on the report and answers were provided by Officers, the Leader of Council and Portfolio Holder in attendance.

Resolved:

That the Committee supported the Constitutional Working Group's recommendation.