



Communities  
Overview Committee

25 January 2023

10.00 am

Item

Public

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON  
22 MARCH 2023  
1.30 P.M. TO 3.10 P.M.**

**Responsible Officer:** Emily Marshall  
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**Present**

Councillor Robert Macey (Chairman)  
Councillors Ted Clarke, Nick Hignett (Vice Chairman), Duncan Kerr, Christian Lea,  
Dan Morris, Vivienne Parry, David Vasmer (Substitute for Mark Williams)

**77. Apologies for absence and substitutions**

Apologies have been received from Councillor Mark Jones and Councillor Mark Williams. Councillor David Vasmer was in attendance as a substitute for Councillor Williams.

**78. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

Councillor Viv Parry declared that her daughter owned a Connexus Property.

**79. Minutes**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

**80. Public Question Time**

No public questions or petitions had been received.

**81. Member Question Time**

A question had been submitted by Councillor Julia Evans in relation to short term lets. A copy of the question and the response given in the meeting are attached to the signed minutes and have been published on the Committee web pages.

## **82. Social Housing in Context: Understanding Shropshire's Housing Market**

Jane Trethewey, Assistant Director Homes and Communities presented the report that followed on from a report presented to the Committee in January 2023, 'Understanding the social housing market in Shropshire', and sought to set out an understanding of the housing market as a whole.

The report considered evidence which was not restricted to housing supply and demand, but population change and demographics, health, well-being, deprivation and the economy.

The report set out housing pressures, including barriers to accessing open market housing and the role of social housing, especially in meeting the Council's statutory responsibilities.

The report proposed a range of questions which Members are asked to consider in preparation for a proposed workshop to be held in Summer 2023.

*Councillor Duncan Kerr joined the meeting at 13:44.*

The Chairman thanked the Assistant Director, Homes and Communities and her team for such a comprehensive report.

The Committee felt that it would be helpful to understand the data more thoroughly. A breakdown of the barrier to housing was requested, data to show a comparison to other rural counties who might have the same challenges, a breakdown by parish, the increase in Airbnb's and the impact this was having on availability of housing for families. It was requested that information in relation to the elderly and those entering residential care, rough sleepers, young offenders and those fleeing domestic violence would be informative for the proposed workshop.

The Committee requested that action points and a brief summary of the topics discussed be prepared and the Scrutiny Officer stated that he would pull something together ahead of the workshop as a vast area had been covered.

The size and complexity of housing and how it cuts across so many topics was acknowledged. Officers reported that they were pleased to work with the Committee to and welcomed their engagement.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

## **83. Work Programme**

The Scrutiny Officer reported that Social Housing and Affordable Housing would be the main focus of the next meeting and the workshop after.

The Scrutiny Officer explained that moving forward, after the annual Council meeting, Work Programming workshops would be arranged, to which Portfolio Holders could be invited.

**RESOLVED:**

That the update be noted.

**84. Date/Time of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Communities Overview Committee will take place on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at 10.00 a.m.