

Council Meeting 6 March 2017**Motions****Motion 1 - Motion to Housing Economy and Business Committee****Proposed by Councillor Neil Garratt, Seconder TBC**

The Housing Economy and Business Committee (the Committee), being a standing committee of the Council, notes in the Constitution, "7.2 *The Council appoints standing committees. Their purpose is to examine in detail specific issues or aspects of policy, procedure or service, to make recommendations to the Council and to take decisions on those matters that do not need to be referred to the Council.*"

And further notes from the Council's Constitution, the purpose of the Committee:

"7.16 Areas of responsibility:

To carry out those statutory and non-statutory functions falling within its area of responsibility as set out below, working within the budget and policy framework previously approved by Council, except where such functions remain reserved to the Council or have been delegated to any other Committee within the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

To recommend to Full Council new or changes in previously approved policies. To make joint arrangements or delegate decision making to Strategic Directors. However, this does not prevent that Committee from choosing to exercise the function itself.

Areas of responsibility include:

Building Control

Business Regulation/Consumer Protection/Trading Standards/Enforcement

Development Control Policy

Economic Development (Employment, Skills and Inward Investment)

Health and Safety (External)

Homelessness

Housing Advice Services

Housing Strategy

Revenues and Benefits

Strategic Planning

Sutton Housing Partnership

Town and District Centres"

The Housing Economy and Business Committee notes that in accordance with the Constitution its purpose, inter alia, includes to examine in detail specific issues or aspects of policy, procedure or service relating to the Sutton Housing Partnership.

Notes that this Committee cannot examine in detail specific issues or aspects of service if it is not aware of them.

Notes that there were 5 meetings of the Committee between November 2015, when the Committee Chair learned of the material issue with SHP's failure to collect leaseholder charges, and December 2016 when the Committee was finally made aware of this issue. Namely, December 2015, January 2016, March 2016, June 2016, and September 2016.

The HEB Committee further notes that at 3 of those 5 Committee meetings, representatives from Sutton Housing Partnership (SHP) were present before the Committee to discuss and agree the 30 year Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan, to review the Management Agreement between the Council and SHP, to agree the SHP Major Works Programme, and to agree the SHP 5 Year Plan.

This Committee notes that the Committee Chair and the representatives from SHP knew during these meetings and the decisions at those meetings that a material sum of money had been lost through maladministration of leaseholder charges, and that this fact was not raised at any time during these meetings.

The Committee therefore notes that it was not aware of material facts concerning the likely future financial position of SHP and the HRA during discussions about the financial position of SHP and the HRA, the capital works programme, and the Management Agreement between the Council and SHP.

This Committee notes that it cannot carry out the role assigned to it under the Constitution if it is not made aware of material facts within its area of responsibility or relating to items coming before it.

Therefore, this Committee asserts its right to be made aware of material issues within its areas of responsibility to allow it to carry out the functions and responsibilities assigned to it within the Constitution, and requests that both the Chair of the Committee and appropriate officers commit in future to apprise the Committee of material issues in a prompt and timely manner and in any event prior to relevant items coming before the committee, so that the Committee can assess such issues and make appropriate decisions in full knowledge of the material facts.

(Note - this Motion is to be referred to the Housing, Economy and Business Committee)