



Leicester
City Council

MINUTE EXTRACT

Minutes of the Meeting of the HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: MONDAY, 13 JANUARY 2020 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Westley (Chair)
Councillor Nangreave (Vice Chair)

Councillor Aqbany
Councillor Gee

Councillor O'Donnell
Councillor Willmott

In attendance:

Councillor Cutkelvin – Assistant City Mayor, Housing and Education
Councillor Clarke – Deputy City Mayor, Environment and Transportation

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43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Pickering.

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Aqbany declared an Other Disclosable Interest in the general business of the meeting that he had family members who were council tenants.

Councillor Westley declared an Other Disclosable Interest in the general business of the meeting that he had family members who were council tenants.

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, these interests were not considered so significant that they were likely to prejudice the Councillors' judgement of the public interests. The Councillors were not therefore required to withdraw from the meeting during consideration and discussion of the agenda items.

50. LEICESTER'S CLIMATE EMERGENCY CONVERSATION

The Director of Estates and Building Services submitted a report to inform Members about draft proposals for the city's response to the climate emergency, as well as the associated programme of community consultation

and engagement entitled “Leicester’s Climate Emergency Conversation”.

The Chair noted that following the Climate Emergency consultations, this item would be bought back to Housing scrutiny as a matter of priority.

Duncan Bell, Corporate Environmental Consultant gave a presentation on the Climate Emergency. The following was noted:

- The Council declared a Climate Emergency in February 2019 to address the urgent action required to prevent global heating from exceeding 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- Consultations were now in progress in various formats including an online questionnaire, community discussions, one day workshops for adults and young people, primary school discussions, a physical pack and use of the Council’s new moderated online discussion platform: Dialogue.
- Following the consultations, feedback from the public would inform the development of a draft action plan for the Council’s response to the emergency, which would be adopted in 2020.

In response to concerns of the Commission:

- Potential ways in which we could work with the private sector to encourage them to achieve carbon reductions would include using the selective licences scheme.
- It was encouraged to lobby central government to do more and the Chair requested that Commission Members and Assistant City Mayor, Councillor Cutkelvin wrote to their local MP’s and inform them of the Climate Emergency consultation.
- The Director of Housing noted that plans to be more carbon neutral had already started and this would be demonstrated in phase 2 housing plans.

Agreed:

1. That the progress made since the climate emergency declaration, including the consultation and engagement programme currently underway be noted.
2. Commented on the proposals for discussion, including their implications for the city and for the Council;
3. That all Councillors to help to publicise the Climate Emergency Conversation through their role as Ward Councillors and inform their local MP’s; and
4. Following the consultations, this item be bought back to Housing Scrutiny as a matter of priority.

