

## **ORGANISATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 24 MAY 2022**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Stephen Clough (Chair) (in the Chair)  
Councillor Michelle Emmens (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Pat Kerry  
Councillor Philip Wright

Councillor Heather Liggett

#### **Also Present:**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| J Dethick | Director of Finance and Resources & (Section 151 Officer) |
| N Astle   | Joint ICT Service Delivery Manager                        |
| L Shaw    | Managing Director - Rykneld Homes Ltd                     |
| A Maher   | Interim Governance Manager                                |
| D Stanton | Senior Scrutiny Officer                                   |
| A Bond    | Governance Officer  |

#### **OSC/ Apologies for Absence**

1/22-

23 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Ruff, J Birkin and D Drabble.

#### **OSC/ Declarations of Interest**

2/22-

23 Members were requested to declare the existence and nature of any disclosable pecuniary interest and/or other interest, not already on their register of interests, in any item on the agenda and withdraw from the meeting at the appropriate time.

Councillor S Clough declared an interest in Item 5 - Rykneld Homes, as he was a member of the Rykneld Homes Ltd Board.

#### **OSC/ Minutes of Last Meeting**

3/22-

23 RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the previous meeting of the Organisation Scrutiny Committee held on 29 March 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **OSC/ Members' IT Provisions**

4/22-

23 Members received an update on Members' IT provisions. They heard that IT support would be provided by the Joint ICT Service and not the Governance department.

The Joint ICT Service would implement mobile device management, give priority to issues logged by Members and establish a Members' hotline.

The Joint ICT Service Delivery Officer had met with the Member Users Group

and taken account of their requirements. Some Members had been given laptop computers and this was working well but these devices required a stable Wi-Fi connection and VPN. If all Members were given a laptop computer, this would have a potential cost of £30,000. This decision would require approval from Members.

The Officer updated Members on cyber-security and they heard that the Council had a layered defence system that included anti-virus software, mail filters and a firewall. User training and ICT policies are also an important layer of defence, and it was important to ensure that staff and Members were trained and signed up to the associated security policies. It was recommended that the Members ICT Charter and ICT training should be reviewed, especially in light of the increasing threat of cyber incidents. £15,000 had been secured between the three authorities to increase cyber security governance and another £15,000 had been secured for increased cyber specialised training.

Committee heard that the Members Training and ICT Officer's role would now primarily focus on technical administrative tasks, especially on the Mod.Gov system.

**OSC/ Rykneld Homes**

**5/22-  
23**

Committee received an update on Rykneld Homes Ltd.

Members heard that a new five year contract had been signed between NEDDC and Rykneld Homes. This included a Business Plan 2022-2025, a Performance Management Framework and, Governance arrangements among others.

Members were also informed on the Governance Arrangements and heard that Rykneld Homes Ltd were regulated by the social housing regulator and monitored against housing standards. In the last year they had two referrals to the housing ombudsman but neither of these were upheld.

Committee noted that that the social housing stock contained 7538 Council owned properties.

The Officers also highlighted the work that was completed by Rykneld Homes Ltd. This included; repairs and maintenance; Housing management; regeneration and development and; managing the capital programme for NEDDC.

Members praised the work that had been completed by the team at Rykneld Homes Ltd.

**OSC/ Monitoring of Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations**

**6/22-  
23**

The Committee were presented with a report that outlined the recommendations of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees during the course of the Municipal Year. The information had been provided to Members so that they could monitor the recommendations and their outcomes.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

**OSC/ Forward Plan of Executive Decisions**

**7/22-**

**23**

RESOLVED – That the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions be noted.

**OSC/ Work Programme**

**8/22-**

**23**

RESOLVED – That the work programme be noted.

**OSC/ Additional Urgent Items**

**9/22-**

**23**

There were no additional urgent items.

**OSC/ Date of Next Meeting**

**10/2**

**2-23**

The next meeting of the Organisation Scrutiny Committee would be held on the 19 July at 10am.