

**Meeting of the Housing and Safer Communities  
Select Committee**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 at 6pm  
At Saltwells Education Development Centre,  
Bowling Green Road, Dudley, DY2 9LY**

**Agenda - Public Session  
(Meeting open to the public and press)**

1. Apologies for absence
2. To report the appointment of any substitute members serving for this meeting of the Committee.
3. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct
4. Public Forum
5. [Programme of Meetings and Business Items for 2023/2024 \(Pages 4 – 8\)](#)
6. To consider any questions from Members to the Chair where two clear days' notice has been given to the Monitoring Officer (Council Procedure Rule 11.8).

## **Distribution:**

Councillor A Davies (Chair)

Councillor S Bothul (Vice-Chair)

Councillors A Aston, D Bevan, J Cowell, T Creed, P Drake, I Kettle, K Lewis, J Martin and M Webb

Cc: Councillor L Taylor-Childs (Cabinet Member for Housing and Safer Communities)



**Chief Executive**

**Dated: 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2023**

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### **Submitting Apologies for Absence**

- Elected Members can submit apologies by contacting Democratic Services (see our contact details below).

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[Democratic.Services@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@dudley.gov.uk)

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**Meeting of the Housing and Safer Communities Select Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2023**

**Report of the Lead for Law and Governance**

**Programme of Meetings and Business Items for 2023/24**

**Purpose**

1. To consider the programme of meetings and potential items of business for this Select Committee during 2023/24.

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended:-
  - That the programme of meetings for 2023/24 be noted.
  - That Members consider potential business items, as referred to in paragraph 4 of this report, subject to the need for flexibility during the municipal year.
  - That the Lead for Law and Governance, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, be authorised to make all the necessary arrangements to enable this Committee to undertake its work during the 2023/24 municipal year.
  - That the draft terms of reference for the Select Committee, as set out in the Appendix, be noted.

**Background**

3. As agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, meetings of this Select Committee have been programmed during the 2023/24 municipal year to undertake its work and consider any relevant items of business during the municipal year. The draft terms of reference of this Committee are set out in the Appendix.

4. Following initial consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, the items listed below are recommended for consideration at programmed meetings of this Select Committee during 2023/24:

**20<sup>th</sup> July, 2023**

- Programme of Meetings and Business Items for 2023-24

**13<sup>th</sup> September, 2023**

- Impact of Rent Increase
- Property Condition and Compliance Update

**20<sup>th</sup> November, 2023**

- Review of Housing Finance
- Tenant Satisfaction Measures
- Customer Involvement

**22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2024**

- Review of Private Rented Sector
- Neighbourhood Model

**13<sup>th</sup> March, 2024**

- Annual Report 2023/24 and potential items of business for 2024/25
- Community Safety Partnership including Anti-Social Behaviour
- Contractor Management

5. Action Tracker reports will also be included as a standing item on each agenda to ensure that any outstanding actions agreed by the Committee are progressed and monitored.
6. The Committee is requested to consider the outline programme of business as outlined above taking account of the need for considerable flexibility due to changing circumstances and any issues that might arise during the municipal year.
7. Subject to the views of the Committee at this meeting, the Lead for Law and Governance, following consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, will make the necessary practical arrangements for the Committee to conduct its work during 2023/24.
8. The Council's scrutiny arrangements are set out in Article 6 of the Constitution and the associated Procedure Rules within Part 4 of the Constitution. At the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, approval was given to the establishment of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, together with seven Select Committees, for the 2023/24 municipal year.

A report was submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 proposing consequential updates to the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements arising from decisions made at the Annual Meeting of the Council. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has resolved that the report be deferred. A further report will be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in due course. This will include clarification of the arrangements for the scrutiny of any decisions that are 'called-in' in line with the Procedure Rules.

9. A "Scrutiny Essentials" Training Session was provided to Members by the Local Government Association on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, with emphasis on the importance of the Members role and essential scrutiny techniques to assist in the development of scrutiny work for the 2023/24 municipal year.

### **Finance**

10. The Council's scrutiny arrangements for 2023/24 will cause an initial pressure of £30,180 on the budget for Members' Allowances and will also require additional unbudgeted resource for officer support. The Director of Finance and Legal will seek in year to contain this pressure from reserves. However, arrangements for future years will need to be considered as part of the budget process for 2024/25 onwards.

### **Law**

11. Committees are established in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which was adopted under the Local Government Act 2000, subsequent legislation and associated Regulations and Guidance.

### **Risk Management**

12. Reports to Select Committees will include a paragraph to ensure proper consideration of any ongoing material risks as part of the Council's Risk Management Framework.

### **Equality Impact**

13. Provision exists within the Council's scrutiny arrangements for overview and scrutiny to be undertaken of the Council's policies on equality and diversity.

### **Human Resources/Organisational Development**

14. The issues referred to in this report are administered within the resources available to the Democratic Services Team with support from Directorates and other Officers as required.

## **Commercial/Procurement**

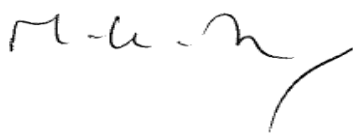
15. Individual items may have commercial or procurement implications, which will be reported to relevant Select Committees.

## **Environment/Climate Change**

16. The Council requires that all reports should include an assessment of the impact on the environment. The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and reports on individual proposals should address the impact on the Council's work to address Climate Change and achieve the Net Zero target by 2041. In addition, individual reports should consider how the proposals support the [United Nations sustainable development goals](#)

## **Council Priorities and Projects**

17. Work undertaken by Select Committees will contribute to the delivery of key Council priorities including the Borough Vision, Council Plan and Future Council Programme. Reports to meetings will include details of how proposals impact on key Council priorities.



**Mohammed Farooq**  
**Lead for Law and Governance**

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## **Appendix**

Appendix 1 – Terms of reference

## **List of Background Documents**

The Council's Constitution

## **HOUSING AND SAFER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE**

### **Membership**

11 Councillors

### **Terms of Reference**

In accordance with any agreed programme of business and any statutory requirements:

- (a) To undertake scrutiny and contribute to policy development relating to matters falling within the portfolio responsibilities of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Safer Communities.
- (b) To undertake overview and scrutiny functions associated with the strategic Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (Safe and Sound).
- (c) To undertake scrutiny investigations/inquiries as required.
- (d) To submit reports and recommendations to the relevant decision taker(s).