



Exeter City Council

To the Chair and Members
of the Scrutiny Committee - Community

Philip Bostock, Chief Executive

Bindu Arjoon, Assistant Chief Executive

Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter, EX1 1JN

Tel: 01392 277888 www.exeter.gov.uk

Direct dial: 01392 265107

Fax: 01392 265268

email: howard.bassett@exeter.gov.uk

Our ref:

Your ref:

AGENDA FOR
EXETER CITY COUNCIL
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY

The Scrutiny Committee - Community will meet on **TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2009**, commencing at **5.30 pm**, in the Rennes Room, Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter to consider the following business. If you have an enquiry regarding any items on this agenda, please contact Howard Bassett, Member Services Officer on **Exeter 265107**.

Entry to the Civic Centre can be gained through the Customer Service Centre, Paris Street.

Pages

Part I: Items suggested for discussion with the press and public present

1

MINUTES

To sign the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2009.

2

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors are reminded of the need to declare personal and prejudicial interests, including the nature and extent of such interests, in relation to business on the agenda, before any discussion takes place on the item. Councillors requiring clarification should seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer prior to the day of the meeting.

3 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 -
EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

To pass the following resolution:-

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of items 21 and 22 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Act.

4 **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC UNDER STANDING ORDER 19**

A period of up to 15 minutes will be set aside to deal with questions to the Committee from members of the public.

Details of questions should be notified to the Assistant Chief Executive at least three working days prior to the meeting. Further information and a copy of the procedure are available from Member Services (01392 265115) also on the Council web site.

<http://www.exeter.gov.uk/scrutinyquestions>

5 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER STANDING
ORDER 20**

To receive questions from Members of the Council to appropriate Portfolio Holders.

| |
|--|
| <u>MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE EXECUTIVE</u> |
|--|

6 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2009 - 2039**

To consider the report of the Head of Housing Services – *report circulated.* 1 - 8

7 **HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2009 -2015**

To consider the report of the Head of Housing Services – *report circulated.* 9 - 14

8 **DRAFT EMPTY HOMES STRATEGY 2009 - 2014**

To consider the report of the Head of Housing Services – *report circulated* 15 - 16

9 **PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL POLICY - ANNUAL REVIEW**

To consider the report of the Head of Environmental Health Services – *report circulated* 17 - 22

10 **EXETER AIR QUALITY STRATEGY 2009-2014**

To consider the report of the Head of Environmental Health Services – *report circulated.* 23 - 24

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - COMMUNITY

11

SPLASH HOLIDAY PLAY SCHEME

The following petition, of approximately 428 signatories, was submitted to Council on 24 February 2009 by Councillor Martin.

“We, the undersigned, do not believe that Exeter City Council should be considering closing the Splash Holiday Play Scheme.”

The petition was referred to this Committee.

Unfortunately the Splash scheme has now ended with the last scheme being run by the City Council during this February half term. We have been touched by the support and praise for Splash. Great efforts were made right up to the last minute to reinstate partnership funding for the scheme but with the exception of the offer of a modest contribution by Devon County Council, none was forthcoming. Notice was therefore given on 26 January to Devon County Council as Children’s Services Authority that the February scheme would be the last run by the City Council.

This was the minimum amount of notice we felt we could provide to allow the County Council to tell parents that the scheme was ending and to inform them about alternative provision for holiday childcare. We have offered to share our knowledge and experience of running Splash with any new provider that Devon County Council might commission. Our £10,000 contribution to the costs of the scheme has been retained in the budget to help support any sustainable replacement scheme that might be developed. The petition will be forwarded to Devon County Council so that they are aware of the strength of feeling from parents and families in Exeter.

12

LEGION WAY HOUSING SCHEME

A petition of 39 signatures against the redevelopment of the grassed area on Legion Way, Alphington and the proposal to develop four units of social housing for rent was submitted to the Council meeting on 24 February 2009 by Councillor Newcombe. The petition was referred to this Committee. A response to this petition is as follows:

In July 2006 Members agreed a report setting out the Council’s proposal to identify and assess a number of Council owned land sites, mainly within existing housing estates, that could potentially be developed for new affordable rented housing. Sites would be developed in partnership with a Housing Association.

The reason for adopting this policy was to help increase the overall supply of affordable housing across the City in response to rising demand from households on the Exeter Home Choice register. The need for such developments has become even greater as the housing market has slowed over recent months and the supply of affordable housing through Section 106 agreements has dried up.

The project has progressed well over the intervening period with a number of sites now at an advanced stage. In some cases, scheme designs are well advanced and consultation meetings have been held with local residents.

The proposed development of four social rented units at Legion Way forms part of this project. The scheme that is currently under consideration includes the provision of two three-bedroom disabled units and two one-bedroom flats on a piece of land within the curtilage of the existing estate.

At a consultation meeting with local residents held on Wednesday 18 February 2009, local residents raised a number of concerns regarding this proposal. Officers listened carefully to their concerns and are now working with the architects, the housing association and Planning Services to review this scheme and address residents concerns.

- 13 **EXTERNAL AUDIT REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGING RISKS FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE**
To consider the report of the Head of Environmental Health Services – *report circulated.* 25 - 38
- 14 **RE-TENDERING OF THE HOUSING RESPONSIVE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS**
To consider the report of the Head of Housing Services – *report circulated.* 39 - 42
- 15 **PORCH : PROLIFIC OFFENDERS RE-SETTLEMENT THROUGH CO-ORDINATED HOUSING**
To consider the report of the Head of Housing Services – *report circulated.* 43 - 44
- 16 **ALLOTMENT STRATEGY REVIEW**
To consider the report of the Head of Contracts and Direct Services – *report circulated.* 45 - 58
- 17 **SWIMMING POOL WORKING GROUP**
To receive feedback on progress from the Swimming Pool Working Group as requested at Council on 24 February 2009.

| |
|--------------------------------------|
| <u>PERFORMANCE MONITORING</u> |
|--------------------------------------|

- 18 **STEWARDSHIP - COMMUNITY TO DECEMBER 2008**
To consider the joint report of the Director Community and Environment and the Head of Treasury Services – *report circulated.* 59 - 66
- 19 **STEWARDSHIP - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT TO DECEMBER 2008**
To consider the joint report of the Director Community and Environment and the Head of Treasury Services – *report circulated.* 67 - 70

20 **NATIONAL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR RESULTS 2007/08 HOW EXETER'S RESULTS COMPARE**

To consider the report of the Director Community and Environment – *report circulated.* 71 - 74

(Please bring the copy of Performance Indicator Results previously sent to you by the Policy Unit)

Part II : Items suggested for discussion with the press and public excluded

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE EXECUTIVE

21 **EXTRALET SCHEME PROGRAMME REPORT AND RESTRUCTURE**

To consider the report of the Head of Housing Services – *report circulated to Members.* 75 - 82

22 **RAMM AND THE RENNAISSANCE PROGRAMME**

To consider the report of the Head of Leisure and Museums – *report circulated to Members.* 83 - 86

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next **Scrutiny Committee - Community** will be held on Tuesday 2 June 2009 at 5.30 pm

FUTURE BUSINESS

The schedule of future business proposed for this Scrutiny Committee and other Committees of the Council can be viewed on the following link to the Council's website: <http://www.exeter.gov.uk/forwardplan>
Councillors can view a hard copy of the schedule in the Members Room.

Membership -

Councillors D Baldwin (Chair), Shiel (Deputy Chair), Branston, Choules, Mrs Danks, A Hannaford, Hobden, Newcombe, Newton, R Smith, Taghdissian, Thompson and Wardle

Find out more about Exeter City Council services by looking at our web site <http://www.exeter.gov.uk>. This will give you the dates of all future Committee meetings and tell you how you can ask a question at a Scrutiny Committee meeting. Alternatively, contact the Member Services Officer on (01392) 265115 for further information.

Individual reports on this agenda can be produced in large print on request to Member Services on 01392 265111.



Please remember to recycle. If you would prefer not to receive paper copies please let us know. Contact Member Services 01392 265197 or email member.services@exeter.gov.uk