

# HOUSING COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

**4.00PM, WEDNESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**HOVE TOWN HALL, - COUNCIL CHAMBER**

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk). Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

Electronic agendas can also be accessed through our meetings app available through [ModernGov: iOS/Windows/Android](#)

This agenda and all accompanying reports are printed on recycled paper

# ADDENDUM

<b>ITEM</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>PROCEDURAL BUSINESS</b>	<b>3 - 4</b>
	Appointment of Chair	
<b>5</b>	<b>PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT</b>	<b>5 - 14</b>
	Questions for the Committee	
	Deputation for the Committee	
<b>6</b>	<b>MEMBER INVOLVEMENT</b>	<b>15 - 16</b>
	Letter from Councillor	

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Appointment of Chair</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>18 September 2019</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Executive Director for Families, Children &amp; Learning</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Mark Wall</b>	<b>Tel: 01273 291006</b>
	<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk">mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	<b>(All Wards);</b>		

**FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

Note:

By reason of the special circumstances, and in accordance with section 100B(4)(b) of the 1972 Act, the Deputy Chair of the Committee has been consulted and is of the opinion that this item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency to avoid any prolonged delay and to ensure the committee has a designated Chair.

The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 3, Access to Information Procedure Rule 5 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) were that confirmation from the Labour Group on the changes to committee and their nominated person for the role of Chair could only be confirmed after the 9<sup>th</sup> September.

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The report informs the Housing Committee of the resignation of Councillor Allcock as Chair of the Committee and seeks the appointment of his replacement.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 That Councillor Williams is appointed as the Chair of the Committee.

**3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Following Councillor Allcock's resignation from the committee, there is a need to fill the vacant Chair's role and in accordance with the agreed protocol for working under no overall control, the Labour Group have nominated Councillor Williams to be Chair.
- 3.2 The Leader of the Labour Group, Councillor Platts has confirmed Councillor Williams appointment to the committee in place of Councillor Allcock.

#### **4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 There is a need to appoint a Chair in order for the committee to be fully effective and to prevent any undue delay it is recommended that the matter is dealt with at the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> September rather than waiting for full Council on the 24<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The Leaders of the Groups have been consulted and support the appointment of the Chair.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The appointment of Chair will ensure the requirements of the constitution are met.

#### **7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

- 7.1 The change of Chair has no direct financial implication as the SRA for the role is included within the Members Allowances budget for 2019/20 and is paid directly to the post-holder.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Peter Francis*

*Date: 12/09/19*

##### Legal Implications:

- 7.2 The Constitution provides for the full Council and/or the respective committee to appoint the Chair of Committee.

*Lawyer Consulted: Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis*      *Date: 12/09/19*

##### Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out; the appointment of the Chair is for the committee.

##### Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 There are no sustainability implications in relation to this report.

##### Any Other Significant Implications:

- 7.5 There are no other significant implications in relation to this report.

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the authority at each ordinary meeting of the Committee.

Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, but the person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion.

The following 3 written questions have been received from members of the public.

**1. QUESTION From: David Spafford**

71/73 Grand Parade, is freehold HRA property, leased on a full Repairing lease to Optivo Housing Association, is grade two listed.

The lease with Optivo has under a year left to run.

The property is divided up in to several homes some on short leases and others on 30day notice tenancies on Social rents.

Are there plans to have the building surveyed and a notice of dilapidations served on the freeholder or are the cost of bringing the property up to standard, Better Homes, BHCC standards, Grade Two, to fall on the council tenants though the housing revenue amount

**Chair will reply.**

**2. QUESTION From: Barry Hughes**

On Sylvan Hall Estate four blocks have recently been refurbished including new roofs. These blocks were well built post war and all could have had an extra floor built on top, I understand that Government thinking would allow this without recourse to planning, resulting in additional units for the HRA. An extra floor on each of these blocks would have produced 9 one-bedroom flats and 6 two-bedroom flats.

I hear this is an idea under discussion but is it not a policy that should be implemented at Sylvan Hall, Stage 2 and citywide now?

**Chair will reply.**

**3. QUESTION From: Valerie Paynter**

How many of the 57 flats at Clarendon House on the Clarendon & Ellen Estate have been either transferred to Seaside Homes or have been leased back from leaseholders & used for temporary/short-term housing, please?

**Chair will reply.**

**DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Committee for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which the Chair may speak in response. It shall then be moved by the Chair and voted on without discussion that the deputation be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

Notification of one Deputation has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

**(1) Deputation concerning: Homeless Bill of Rights**

**Spokesperson:** David Thomas

Supported by:

David Croydon  
Jim Deans  
John Hadman  
Barry Hughes

**Ward affected: All**





**(1) Deputation concerning the Homeless Bill of Rights**

On 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 the Brighton & Hove Housing Coalition presented a petition to the full Council calling upon the city of Brighton & Hove to adopt the Homeless Bill of Rights. The petition had more than 2,500 signatures (it now has more). John Allcock, chair of the Housing and New Homes Committee, welcomed it warmly, as did Amy Heley of the Green Party and Mary Mears of the Conservative Party. The Council noted the petition and referred it to the Housing and New Homes Committee for action.

Among the items for this committee to consider is item 7, the Strategic Delivery Targets, and we welcome the commitment in these to the Homeless Bill of Rights; in particular, in Appendix 2, to consult on how best to implement a Bill of Rights for homeless people. However, we are very concerned that there is no item on your agenda to take this forward, and yet there is an item to start a consultation on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy for the next five years.

This deputation argues that this is in danger of putting the cart before the horse. The Homeless Bill of Rights does not, in itself, have financial implications; it is a statement of principles, a high promise to our homeless and our rough sleepers to make their human rights real, a set of standards for the Council to hold itself to. It should inform every step of the consultation on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping; it is relevant to every word of it; it is the common thread that should run through the whole.

Standing as we are on the threshold of winter, the Coalition urges the Committee to pledge itself without delay to these principles of equality, humanity and dignity in its treatment of the homeless, and to integrate them into every part of the consultation on its homelessness strategies.

We accompany this deputation with the text of the Homeless Bill of Rights, since it is not in your papers today.

**Spokesperson**

David Thomas



**LETTER FROM COUNCILLOR**

The following letter has been received from a Councillor and will be taken as read as detailed below:

**(1) Councillor: Amy Heley**

As chair of the Housing Committee, I'm sure Councillor Allcock shares our concerns about the conditions in temporary accommodation and the need for these to be drastically improved.

The fact that existing contracts expire in May 2020 presents an opportunity for us to guarantee an improvement to conditions. These conditions must be laid out before the re-procurement process begins.

The Council must commit itself to improving conditions in temporary accommodation before starting the re-procurement process with providers of temporary accommodation, and if the provider does not agree to pay for these additional services, we feel that the council should cover the costs.

The council has a duty to ensure that temporary accommodation is a safe, comfortable and welcoming place, and the current conditions do not meet these requirements. Extra charges for basic services result in unnecessary stress and financial burden for people at points of crisis in their lives, so the council should alleviate this as much as we can by covering the costs.

Given the above, I would ask that as the Chair, Councillor Allcock agrees with us that the Committee should to commit to the following conditions being included in the procurement documents:

That:

- Service charges should be paid by the council, not the tenants;
- Laundry facilities must be provided for tenants;
- Basic kitchen equipment (kettles, crockery, cutlery, toaster, microwave, dishtowels) and bedding must be provided to tenants free of charge;
- Wi-Fi must be provided to tenants free of charge

Yours sincerely

Councillor Amy Heley  
Councillor Nichole Brennan

