

**Scrutiny and Overview Committee Ermine Street Housing Task and Finish Group**  
**Notes of the meeting of 10am Tuesday 25 July 2017 at 10am**

Present: Cllrs Anna Bradnam, Philippa Hart, Tumi Hawkins, Tony Orgee

The group met to discuss its terms of reference and potential areas for investigation.

**Questions**

The first question to be answered was whether the Scrutiny Committee had the authority to scrutinise Ermine Street Housing (ESH).

Other questions raised were:

- Do ESH properties appear on Home Link?
- Is ESH an ethical landlord?
- How are rents set for ESH properties?

**Areas for investigation**

The group agreed it was interested in exploring the following:

1. What is Ermine Street Housing and how does it operate. Of particular interest is:
  - Staffing
  - Succession planning
2. The financial inter-relationship between the Council and ESH.
3. Tenants:
  - Tenant management
  - Tenancy agreements
  - Tenant welfare
  - Maintenance
4. The impact of ESH on the market

Documents of interest to inform the group further were identified as:

- The Ermine Street Housing Risk Register
- Accounts
- Original proposal documents and reports for the set up of ESH.

Other witnesses/organisations to meet with were identified as:

- Alex Colyer, Executive Director
- The Public Works Loan Board

**Next steps**

- To meet with Stephen Hills after the September 2017 Scrutiny Committee meeting. Discussions with Stephen would help further inform the group's lines of enquiry.

## **Terms of Reference**

### **Membership:**

The task and finish group will consist of the following councillors:

- David Bard
- Anna Bradnam
- Grenville Chamberlain
- Philippa Hart
- Tumi Hawkins

This is not exclusive and other interested members who are either members or substitutes of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee, could join the group subject to the agreement of the task and finish group Chairman.

The group will nominate a Chairman.

### **Frequency of meetings**

The group will meet as often as required in order to achieve its purpose.

### **Purpose of the group**

The purpose of the group is to investigate the following:

1. What is Ermine Street Housing and how does it operate. Of particular interest is:
  - Staffing
  - Succession planning
2. The financial inter-relationship between the Council and ESH.
3. Tenants:
  - Tenant management
  - Tenancy agreements
  - Tenant welfare
  - Maintenance
4. The impact of ESH on the housing market

### **Timescale**

Work of the group to be completed between February and April 2018 (before the May 2018 elections).