

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held at COMMITTEE ROOM - COUNCIL OFFICES,  
LONDON ROAD, SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX CB11 4ER, on MONDAY, 18  
JUNE 2018 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Councillor A Dean (Chairman)  
Councillors G Barker, R Chambers, J Davey, S Harris,  
G LeCount, M Lemon and B Light

Officers in attendance: R Auty (Assistant Director - Corporate Services) and B Ferguson  
(Democratic Services Officer)

**SC1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Asker, S Barker and Oliver.

**SC2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2018 were signed and approved as a correct record.

**SC3 RESPONSES OF THE EXECUTIVE TO REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Chairman said whilst there had been no formal reports that warranted a response, Cabinet had agreed with the decision of the previous Scrutiny Committee regarding the Centre for Public Scrutiny review. He said a report would be brought to the Scrutiny Committee in the near future.

**SC4 CABINET FORWARD PLAN**

The updated Cabinet Forward Plan was noted.

**SC5 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2018-19**

The Chairman said the agenda for the Scrutiny meeting scheduled for the 25 September was particularly busy. He said an additional meeting on 1 October may be required.

**SC6 AFFORDABLE HOUSING - UPDATE FOR INFORMATION**

The Chairman updated Members on the progress of the Affordable Housing Discussion Group. He said the Group had met twice since the last Scrutiny Committee meeting, and another meeting would be scheduled before the end of

July. A report would be brought back to the Committee informed by the discussion between Members and Officers.

Councillor Barker said he knew of a Community Led Housing Fund scheme that was being reported on by Essex County Council. He said the report outlined various affordable housing models, as well as mechanisms by which local authorities could protect housing stock from Right to Buy.

The Chairman agreed that a link to the Executive Summary of the report should be provided in the minutes <https://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/community-led-housing>.

In response to a question from Councillor Light, the Chairman said he would ask Housing Officers whether there was any way to protect the Council's current housing stock by retrospectively applying mechanisms that prevent Right to Buy.

SC7

## **LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT PROPOSALS 2019/20**

Members considered the report on LCTS proposals for 2019/20.

The Assistant Director – Corporate Services provided clarification regarding the proposed change. The proposed 100% increase to the empty homes premium would double the council tax on any property that had not been occupied for two years or more; it was not, as the Committee had initially understood, negating a 50% discount.

RESOLVED to recommend to Cabinet the following draft proposals:

- i. The 2019/20 LCTS scheme is set on the same basis as the 2018/19 scheme and therefore the contribution rate is frozen for the fifth consecutive year.
- ii. The Council continues to protect Vulnerable and Disabled Residents and Carers on a low income.
- iii. The empty homes premium is increased from 50% to 100% after 2 years of non-occupancy.

The meeting ended at 7.55pm.