

To: All Members of the Economic, Planning and Housing Committee

Councillor T Robinson (Chair)  
Councillor O Cubitt  
Councillor S Frost (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor P Harvey  
Councillor L James  
Councillor D Leeks  
Councillor S Parker  
Councillor C Phillimore  
Councillor K Rhatigan  
Councillor J Richards  
Councillor G Watts

Dear Councillor

**Economic, Planning and Housing Committee Thursday, 10 January 2019**

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the Economic, Planning and Housing Committee on:

Date: Thursday, 10 January 2019  
Time: 6.30 pm  
Place: Committee Rooms 1 & 2 - Deanes

Yours sincerely



Melbourne Barrett  
Chief Executive

For more information please contact the Democratic Services team: 01256 844844  
Or email: [democratic.services@basingstoke.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@basingstoke.gov.uk)  
Visit: [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/committeemeetings](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/committeemeetings)

### **Public Participation Scheme**

Members of the public are invited to address the committee on all items presented at a committee meeting. Public speaking on these items will take place at the same time that the item is considered.

If members of the public wish to address the meeting they should notify Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

The public participation scheme is available to access through the council's website - [www.basingstoke.gov.uk/participation](http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/participation)

### **COMMITTEE PAPERS**

If you need this information in a different format, such as large print, please contact Democratic Services.

Alternatively all documents associated with this agenda can be accessed through the Council's website on <http://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/committeemeetings>

---

## AGENDA FOR THE ECONOMIC, PLANNING AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

---

**Members are encouraged to obtain any points of clarification on the reports on the Agenda in advance of the meeting.**

**Members of the public will be invited to speak at the relevant item**

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 3. URGENT MATTERS**

To consider any items of business, other than those shown on this agenda and which, by reason of special circumstances to be stated at the meeting, in the opinion of the Chairman, should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

- 4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 NOVEMBER**

7 - 16

The Chair will move that the minutes of the meeting be signed as a correct record. The only part of the minutes that can be discussed is their accuracy.

- 5. EXPLORING NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE HOMES  
COUNCIL MOTION**

Referral of a motion

It was resolved at a full Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018, to refer the following motion to the Economic, Planning and Housing committee for consideration:-

Basingstoke is a growing town at a time when central government has recognised that there is a national shortage of housing. By announcing that the cap on local authorities borrowing to fund housing developments is to be lifted, the Prime minister has in effect challenged all councils to do more. Even those for whom borrowing is not an issue.

This Council could examine whether there are further opportunities to build or invest, directly or indirectly, in housing for rent or sale; particularly the affordable and social housing needed by those struggling to get on the housing ladder. Without research and evidence, we could miss opportunities to meet the housing needs of our communities, to generate revenue to support services and to

improve our green performance. Are there opportunities to develop new initiatives rather than relying on developers to match housing needs and availability?

The recent report to the Scrutiny Committee, for the year ending March 2018, sounded a positive note with a 23% increase in vacancies on the Council's "Choice Based Lettings" system exceeding the 22% increase in the number of households on the register. This is to be welcomed, but we must ask if we can do more. The report noted that difficulties exist in matching housing needs to the available stock of affordable or social housing. For example, there are issues facing single people, particularly those under the age of 35 years, where the number of applicants considerably outweighs vacancies.

Having a place to call home is a basic human right. An affordable home is vital for people, for families, for key workers who cannot afford to rent privately let alone buy their own home.

This motion requests that the Council undertakes work to explore opportunities and to provide a base of evidence for future policy consideration. To rise to the challenge of the nation's housing crisis.

## **6. ACTION ON EMPTY HOUSES COUNCIL MOTION**

Referral of a motion

It was resolved at a full Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018, to refer the following motion to the Economic, Planning and Housing committee for consideration:-

- 1) Empty homes can be a blight on local communities and are a valuable resource that could be used to help meet local housing need.
- 2) We currently have 457 empty homes in the borough. This figure does not include many other empty homes which are exempt from Council Tax, of which, for example, there are 26 in Norden.
- 3) In its 2018 report, the charity, Empty Homes, made several recommendations for Central Government and local authorities including that:
  - Local authorities should have an empty homes strategy for their area, with the aspiration to reduce the number of long-term empty homes;
  - Local authorities should take a casework approach with owners of long-term empty properties to encourage, advise and support them to bring homes back into housing use.
- 4) This Council has no empty homes strategy. Furthermore there is no reference to a strategy or KPIs in relation to empty homes work in its

Homelessness and Housing Strategy 2016 to 2020, or its Private Sector Renewal Policy.

Council requests that;

- 1) This Council places a higher priority in tackling empty homes to bring them back into use.
- 2) A report outlining this Council's current approach to dealing with empty homes and including recommendations for a future strategy including KPIs is brought forward to the Economic, Planning and Housing Committee for further discussion at the earliest opportunity.

**7. ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY**

17 - 162

Contact Officer: Daniel Garnier

To receive the report and to provide views:-

- on the overall approach to economic growth outlined in the draft economic growth strategy; and
- on the priorities and areas of focus described in the draft economic growth strategy.

**8. HORIZON 2050: THE JOURNEY TO 2050**

163 -  
518

Contact Officer: Sally Boxall

The report presents the outcome of the work on Horizon 2050, which was presented to Community, Environment and Partnerships (CEP) Committee on 19 December 2018 and is presented to Economic, Planning and Environment (EPH) Committee on 10 January 2019 for comment and endorsement. The presentation to CEP and EPH follows an appearance at EPH on 28 September 2017 and follows an extensive period of engagement activities.

The report is for noting and to provide comment on the emerging version of Horizon 2050 prior to consideration by Cabinet.

**9. AUTHORITY MONITORING REPORT FOR PLANNING 2017/18**

519 -  
686

Contact Officer: Jo Brombley

To receive the 2018 Authority Monitoring Report (AMR), for Planning.

The AMR was published in December 2018 and provides monitoring information and statistical data for the borough for the period from 1 April 2017 to the 31 March 2018. The purpose of the AMR is to monitor

progress with the production of planning policy documents and consider the effectiveness of the council's planning policies against relevant performance indicators. The document is published annually in accordance with the requirements set out in Regulation 34 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This is the second report to be published since the adoption of the Local Plan in May 2016.

**10. REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME**

687 -  
690

The Committee is asked to note and review its Work Programme and to receive updates from the Lead Members of Task and Finish Groups.

**11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

To consider whether, in view of the nature of the remaining items on the agenda, any of them are likely to involve the disclosure of exempt or confidential information within the terms of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**12. CONFIDENTIAL/ EXEMPT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**