

Report of	Assistant Director Policy and Place	Author	Geoff Beales ☎ 506514
Title	Review of Colchester Borough Homes' Performance 2016/17		
Wards affected	Not applicable		

The Panel is invited to review the 2016/17 performance of the Council's Arm's Length Management Organisation, Colchester Borough Homes.

1. Action required

- 1.1 The panel is invited to review the performance of Colchester Borough Homes (CBH) during 2016/17, having particular regard to:

- CBH Performance Summary Information 2016/17 (Appendix 2)

Gareth Mitchell, the Chief Executive and Anne Grahamslaw, Chair of Colchester Borough Homes, will attend Scrutiny Panel to present their update.

- 1.2 The panel is also invited to make any recommendations to the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities on CBH performance management arrangements for 2017/18 and beyond.

2. Reason for scrutiny

- 2.1 CBH is a wholly owned arm's length company of the Council and delivers the majority of the Council's housing functions, in particular those connected with the Council's housing stock and delivery of homelessness and housing advice services. As such CBH has a key role to play in contributing to the achievement of the Council's Strategic objectives. It is therefore appropriate for Scrutiny Panel to review the performance on an annual basis.

3. Background information

- 3.1 The Council signed a new ten year management agreement with CBH in August 2013. In April 2014 following a review of the Council's Corporate and Financial Management functions, the Corporate Facilities Service was transferred to CBH.
- 3.2 The Management Agreement includes a Liaison Protocol which sets out how CBC and CBH will make decisions and how the Council will monitor performance. This includes a quarterly Principal Liaison meeting to monitor strategic, operational, financial and performance matters, including agreeing annual targets and reviewing progress against these, monitoring progress against the Medium Term Delivery Plan, and overseeing the direction and implementation of the Asset Management Strategy and the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. The Liaison Protocol also sets out the informal liaison arrangements between the Chief Executives of CBC and CBH and between the Chief Executive of CBH and the "Council's Representative".

- 3.3 CBC and CBH are continuing to work together to deliver financial planning, asset management and regulatory changes required following the introduction of the Housing Act and Homeless Reduction Act. To encompass all of the work required a 'Housing Futures Programme' has been set up to ensure all necessary work is planned and completed and all identified risks are managed.

4. Strategic Plan References

- 4.1 The services and projects delivered by Colchester Borough Homes contribute directly to the following Strategic Plan priority areas:-
- Provide opportunities to increase the number of homes available including those that are affordable for local people and to build and refurbish our own Council houses for people in significant need.
 - Develop a strong sense of community across the Borough by enabling people and groups to take more ownership and responsibility for their quality of life.
 - Create the right environment for people to develop and flourish in all aspects of life both business and pleasure.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The performance information and monitoring was developed in conjunction with CBH Board Members, Council Officers and the Portfolio Holder for Housing and Public Protection and as part of its development subject to scrutiny by tenant and leaseholder representatives.

6. Publicity considerations

- 6.1 The CBH Medium Term Delivery Plan has been widely distributed which contains all performance information for 2016/17 and targets for 2017/18.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 None from this report

8. Other Standard References

- 8.1 Having considered equality, diversity and human rights, health and safety and community safety implications, there are none which are significant to the matters in this report.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Presentation Slides

Appendix 2 – Performance Information 2016/17