

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



CABINET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

**17th JULY 2013
at 6pm**

Committee Suite
King's Court
Chapel Street
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE30 1EX



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Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX.
Telephone: 01553 616275
Fax: 01553 691663

9th July 2013

Dear Member

Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

You are invited to attend a meeting of the above-mentioned Committee which will be held on **Wednesday 17th July 2013 at 6pm** in the **Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn** to discuss the business shown below.

Yours sincerely,
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2013 (previously circulated pages 128 - 131).

3. Urgent Business under Standing Order 7

To consider any business which, by reason of special circumstances, the Chairman proposes to accept as urgent under Section 100(b)(4) (b) of the Local Government Act, 1972.

4. Declaration of Interest

Please indicate if there are any interests which should be declared. A declaration of an interest should indicate the nature of the interest (if not already declared on the Register of Interests) and the agenda item to which it relates. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared, the member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

These declarations apply to all Members present, whether the Member is part of the meeting, attending to speak as a local Member on an item or simply observing the meeting from the public seating area.

5. Members Present Pursuant to Standing Order 34

Members wishing to speak pursuant to Standing Order 34 should inform the Chairman of their intention to do so and on what items they wish to be heard before the meeting commences. Any Member attending the meeting under Standing Order 34 will only be permitted to speak on those items which have been previously notified to the Chairman.

6. Chairman's Correspondence (if any)

7. Response to Previous Committee Recommendations (if any)

To receive comments, and recommendations from other Council bodies, and any responses subsequent to recommendations, which this Committee has previously made. (N.B. some of the relevant Council bodies may meet after dispatch of the agenda).

8. Matters called-in Pursuant to Standing Order 12 (if any)

9. Scrutiny of Cabinet/Portfolio Holders' Decisions

(a) Cabinet Decisions

Members are requested to bring to the meeting the Agenda and any accompanying documents from the Cabinet meeting which was held on 1st July 2013.

(i) Local Plan: Publication of Detailed Policies and Sites Plan 'Preferred Options' For Consultation (Cabinet Agenda Item 10 (2) – page 57)

Councillor Mrs V Spikings (Portfolio Holder for Development) and Alan Gomm (LDF Manager) are invited to attend for this item.

(b) Schedule of Portfolio Holders' Decision (attached at page 1).

To note the attached pending Portfolio Holders' Decision.

Amendments to the Private Sector Housing Policy (attached at pages 2-4).

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on **21st August 2013** at **6.00pm** in the **Committee Suite**.

Circulation:

Members of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee:

Councillors C Joyce (Chairman) D J Collis, J Collop, J Loveless (Vice-Chairman), A Lovett, T Manley, Mrs K Mellish, G Sandell and J M Tilbury

**Management Team Representative: Debbie Gates, Executive Director,
Central Services**

**Cabinet Members:
Management Team /Officers**

Nicola Leader: Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer

CABINET MEMBERS' DELEGATED DECISIONS LIST – MAY 2013 to 2014

Portfolio Holder	Title of Decision	Date Published	Signing Off Date	Deadline Date	Recommendations	Outcome
Regeneration	Lease Renewal- Cliff Top Car Park, Hunstanton	24/5/13	4/6/13	11/6/13	To approve the terms of the lease as set out within this report.	Passed
Health and Wellbeing	Loan of 15 Paintings from the collections at The Town Hall to the Marriotts Warehouse / Green Quay, King's Lynn	30/5/13	6/6/13	13/6/13	The agreement to an initial two month loan of 15 paintings, comprising 14 x watercolours by CT Page depicting scenes of King's Lynn, early 1900's, and 1 x pencil drawing of unknown garden with gateway King's Lynn, unsigned, probably by Henry Baines.	Passed
Environment	Norfolk Mineral Site Specific Allocations Development Plan Document and Norfolk Waste Site Specific Allocations DPD – Main Modifications and Additional Modifications – Invitation to make representations	07.06.13	14.06.13	21.06.13	That the suggested amendments to the proposed Main Modifications 3) given in Appendix 1 of the report is sent to Norfolk County Council	Passed
Community	Amendments to the Private Sector Housing Investment Policy	04.07.13	11.07.13	18.07.13	Approve amendments as detailed in order that capital resources can be more efficiently targeted and to ensure that the eligibility is consistent with current legislation.	

REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR DECISION

Open		Would any decisions proposed :		
Any especially affected Wards	Mandatory/	(a) Be entirely within cabinet's powers to decide YES/NO		
	Discretionary /	(b) Need to be recommendations to Council YES/NO		
	Operational	(c) Be partly for recommendations to Council YES/NO and partly within Cabinets powers –		
Lead Member: E-mail: Cllr Adrian Lawrence		Other Cabinet Members consulted:		
		Other Members consulted:		
Lead Officer: Duncan Hall E-mail: Direct Dial: 01553 6445		Other Officers consulted:		
Financial Implications YES/NO	Policy/Personnel Implications YES/NO	Statutory Implications YES/NO	Equal Impact Assessment YES/NO	Risk Management Implications YES/NO
If not for publication, the paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A of the 1972 Local Government Act considered to justify that is (are) paragraph(s)				
Date advertised: 4 th July 2013			Date decision to be taken: 11 th July 2013	
Deadline for Call-In: 18 th July 2013				

AMENDMENTS TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING INVESTMENT POLICY

Summary

Amendments are proposed to elements of the discretionary assistance offered via the Private Sector Housing Investment Policy to efficiently target resources and to reflect changes in government legislation.

Recommendation

Approve amendments as detailed below in order that capital resources can be more efficiently targeted and to ensure that the eligibility is consistent with current legislation.

Reason for Decision

To approve adjustments to the Private Sector Housing Investment Policy.

The Private Sector Housing Investment policy (PSHIP), prepared to meet the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2002 was amended and approved by Cabinet in July 2012. This policy brings together all forms of grant and other assistance and determines the approach the Council takes to the provision of all mandatory and discretionary assistance offered.

The PSHIP should be reviewed on a regular basis and Appendix 1 (page 19) provides the mechanism for reviewing and amending the policy in order to target funding or resources more appropriately.

In order to target such resources more efficiently and appropriately the following amendments are proposed:

Amendment 1 – Safety & Security Grant - to help fund measures that improve the safety and security of the eligible household.

Amendment 2 – Careline Grant - to help vulnerable households live safely and independently in their own homes.

Amendment 3 – Amendment to Appeals and Exceptional Cases page 18.

Amendment 4 – Amendment to Appendix 1, changing Council Tax Benefit to Council Tax Support.

Amendment 1 – Safety & Security Grant (PSHIP 12.0)

It is proposed that the eligibility and scope of assistance is altered in order to provide a more targeted approach to grant provision including a reduction in the overall grant limit from £250 per to £200 per household.

At present the assistance offered covers both labour and materials. It is proposed that the assistance will be offered in support of a reduced labour rate for vulnerable households and will no longer include the cost of materials. We will continue to offer assistance to vulnerable households as defined within Appendix 1 of the PSHIP and this reduction will ensure that a competitive handyperson service can still be offered but that the capital allowance for this assistance can be used to help a greater number of households in need.

It is also proposed to open up the eligibility to tenants as well as owner occupiers as this will facilitate the installation of falls prevention related measures in rented properties also. Any works or provision deemed to be an obligation of the landlord, either social or private, will need to be funded by the landlord.

Amendment 2 – Careline Grant (PSHIP 13.0)

It is proposed that the scope of assistance is altered in order to provide a more targeted approach to grant provision including a reduction in the overall grant limit from £300 per to £200 per household.

Assistance will still be offered to vulnerable households where the applicant is 60yrs or over (or under 60yrs and suffering from long term ill health or disability) and are in receipt of one of the means tested benefits listed within the 'government defined vulnerable' benefits (Appendix 1).

It is proposed that assistance will be offered in respect to the purchase and installation of a Careline Alarm Unit and that this will no longer cover subsidised rental. The scope of assistance will also include the provision and installation of smoke alarms and/or the provision of a key safe which are activities currently undertaken by Careline installation staff and are interrelated.

This amendment will not reduce the discretionary capital available but will allow the funding to more efficiently targeted and will allow a greater number of vulnerable households to be helped.

Amendment 3 – Appeals & Exceptional Cases (PSHIP Page 18)

It is proposed to update the text within this section to reflect directorate changes within the Council.

Amendment 4 – Appendix 1 (PSHIP Page 19)

It is proposed that Council Tax Benefit be replaced with Council Tax Support to reflect changes which took effect in April 2013 and to remove reference to (Careline only) so as to make Safety & Security assistance open to tenants, subject to the limitations described above.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications and these amendments will allow existing capital funding to be targeted more efficiently and assist an increased number of households.

Staffing Implications

No staffing implications arise.

Statutory Considerations

The ability for the Council to provide discretionary assistance is provided via the Regulatory Reform (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2002.

Signed

Cllr Adrian Lawrence
Portfolio Holder for Community

Date