

## CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

30 July 2015

### **COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY**

For the period 25 June to 18 July 2015

#### **1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**

##### **Food Hygiene**

The food team have applied for and successfully obtained two sets of grant funding.

The first one is for the introduction of the UK Food Surveillance System. The UK Food Surveillance System (UKFSS) is a national database for central storage of analytical results from feed and food samples taken by enforcement authorities (local authorities and port health authorities) as part of their official controls. This will allow the purchase of mobile working devices and allow officers to enter data remotely.

The second funding has been awarded to the Council to lead a Norfolk wide project for Inter Authority Audit focussing on the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. The purpose of the project is to look at how each authority administers the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme to ensure consistency across the county.

##### **Home Choice**

The total on the register prior to the change of policy on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 was 2,494 and at the end of June 2015 was 1,978, a drop of 516.

64 applicants were housed during June into Housing Association accommodation.

29 new applicants were not admitted to the register during June as they did not meet the local connection criteria. 4 were denied access because they were over the income bar.

175 new applicants were accepted onto the register during June.

##### **Housing Update**

There have been additions to the housing part of the council website in relation to statistics and data – please follow the link below:

<http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=27698>

This is to ensure we are as open and transparent as we can be and also to work more effectively in publishing the type of data we are asked for again and again under FOI requests. Hopefully we can just redirect people to this page rather than work repeatedly on similar requests

### **Long term empty homes**

<b>Number of LTEHs:</b>	867
<b>LTEH as % of Stock*:</b>	1.208%
<b>Previous Months LTEH:</b>	859

## **2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**

### **Private Rented Sector**

From October 2015 it will be compulsory for all new private lettings (rented properties) to have smoke detectors fitted on every floor of the property and carbon monoxide detectors where there is solid fuel heating (e.g. log burners, open fires), in line with the Energy Act 2013.

In the UK people living in rented or shared accommodation are 7 times more likely to have a fire (research from the Department for Communities and Local Government).

A limited stock of free smoke detectors will become available to Private Landlords in Norfolk as part of the National campaign by the Government to increase safety in rented properties. The Council's Housing Standards team are taking part in this scheme and anticipate receipt of some smoke detectors in the near future. Once these have arrived there will be publicity related to the scheme.

A Landlords Forum is planned for 28 September 2015 to which all private landlords are invited. There will be updates on changes relating to private rented sector and landlords.

More detail about fire safety is contained in the link below:

<http://www.norfolkfireservice.gov.uk/nfrs/nfrsnews/news-rss-feed/589-smoke-detectors-for-landlords-alarms4life>

## **3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Full Council  
Purfleet Trust  
Cabinet Sifting  
Discovery Centre  
Various Meetings with Officers  
Portfolio Meeting  
Meeting with CEO