

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

12 April 2018

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY

For the period 22 February to 2 April 2018

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Home Choice

The home choice figures for March are as follows:

There were 856 live applications –

152 High
232 Medium
472 Low

There were properties 22 let
And 218 new applications or change of circumstances received

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 implementation

We continue to make preparations for the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act. This is the most significant change to the law around this area of the Council's work since the original legislation 40 years ago. The Act puts homelessness prevention on a statutory footing. From next month everyone who is homeless or threatened with homelessness will be assessed and a personal housing plan will be prepared for everyone. Additional staff have been recruited to meet the additional work load. Work is underway on developing a new homelessness and rough sleeping strategy.

Warm Home Fund

I previously mentioned a fund launched by The National Grid and a company called Affordable Warmth Solutions. A county wide bid was made – led by Broadland District Council. The bid was successful with an award of £3.1M over 2.5 years. The scheme will primarily provide new heating solutions for fuel poor households including air source heat pumps in non-gas areas. Further details will be announced in due course.

New Floating Support service – Stonham

A new floating support service has been commissioned. It is different from the previous Stonham service, as it has a greater focus on crisis intervention. This new service started on 1st April 2018.

New Rough Sleeping Outreach service – Genesis

A rough sleeping outreach service (the first of its kind) will address the needs of those rough sleeping. There has been an increase in rough sleeping in the Borough over the last 2 years. This new service will help connect people who may not be accessing support services to those that can help. Genesis is uniquely placed to provide this service, as the organisation is the principle provider of direct access and emergency accommodation. The service officially started on the 1st April 2018 although mobilisation arrangements have been taking place throughout March.

Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2018-2021

Work has commenced on the new strategy. A number of focused sessions with service providers and statutory services have been arranged. A very positive response from all providers has been received. We are looking forward to getting this important piece of work well underway.

2 Meetings Attended

Full Council
Cabinet Sifting
Cabinet
Meetings with Officers
Local Authority Housing Company
Joint Meeting with Cabinet Members and Freebridge
Planning Training