

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

19 July 2018

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE- CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY

For the period 15 June to 9 July 2018

Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Home Choice

In the month of June there were

935 live applications -

168 High

250 Medium

517 Low

44 applicants were rehoused

Custom and self-build event

The Council organised an event to raise awareness of the opportunities for landowners to consider creating custom and self-build plots. One of the speakers was Mario Wolfe the Director of a national task force supported by the Government and the National Custom and Self-build Association. Mario outlined ways in which councils can create more opportunities. A company called Potton who provide off-site timber packages attended to outline how they would work with land owners. Central government agency Homes England attended to explain the financial packages and assistance available to landowners interested in pursuing this route of delivery. My colleagues Cllr Blunt and Cllr Beales supported the event. The event was very well attended (55 approx.) and we received some extremely positive feedback.

LGA Housing Adviser Support for Custom Build study

This expression of interest has been prepared by the Borough Council in relation to a funding opportunity through the LGA. The proposal relates to meeting the costs associated with some research examining the demand for Custom and Self-build (CSB) housing. It will be one of the first such studies in the country, and it is proposed that the study area will encompass Breckland DC area and South Holland Dc areas.

Nigh Shelter provision

I have circulated a delegated decision in relation to supporting proposals for a night shelter provision for 2018/19 to be operated by Churches Together. Building on the work started last year the proposal is to run 7 nights a week from November to March. The Council is committed to eradicating rough sleeping in the long term, but recognises the huge value of such a provision given the current situation. The approach is planning for the worst, in order that adequate resources are made available to cover this period on a continuous basis. The Council and its partner organisations will work alongside Churches Together and engage with people accessing the shelter to assist them find appropriate accommodation and /or support.

Accelerated Construction Programme

Following my report in February in relation to funding opportunities from Homes England it seems that we should hear imminently on a funding offer for a number of identified Council owned sites. The funding is designed to help councils' bring forward land more quickly where there are barriers to delivery. In discussions with Homes England this week it appears that news of the Council's efforts in direct delivery of new housing has reached some of the key decision makers. It would appear that the efforts to tell our story during the ministerial visit in May are paying dividends.

Licensing

Our new statement of principles (policy) under the Gambling Act 2005 is out for full consultation – end date 1st October 2018.

There was a massive seizure of illicit tobacco – 1 million cigarettes. Connected to premises in King's Lynn. There will be a review of a licensed premises within our area as a result of that seizure.

Meetings Attended

Full Council
Meetings with Officers
Freebridge Community Housing
Cabinet
Planning Committee

