

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**15 October 2020**

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

For the period 10 September to 6 October 2020

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

##### **Long term empty properties**

1/10/20 there were 988 LTEH's in the Borough, this equates to 1.33% of the total number of houses in the BKLWN

##### **Next Steps Accommodation Programme-Funding Programme**

The Council submitted a funding application on 20<sup>th</sup> August for funding to support efforts to accommodate people who had been accommodated during the 'Get Everyone in' - the government led drive at the start of the Pandemic to get people off the streets. Two bids have been submitted for accommodation with support that could be procured and delivered this financial year. If successful it will help the Council to meet immediate needs and further needs that have arisen as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. We are also working on accessing alternative funding options if the bids aren't successful.

##### **The Winter Night shelter**

The Winter Night shelter plan to open from a new venue at St John's Vicarage at the end of October. It is likely that because of social distancing requirements it will have a significantly reduced capacity, however, the charity is determined to ensure it can provide a safe bed for the night for those in need. We are currently awaiting further guidance from Government regarding the safe opening of night shelters. The Winter Night Shelter are liaising closely with Public Health England to ensure the accommodation is Covid 19 secure and the risks around Covid are minimised.

##### **Reid Way**

Broadland Housing Association has submitted a planning application for 7 self-contained, single storey modular units on Council owned land at Reid

Way. The units will be used primarily as temporary accommodation for families. Subject to receiving planning consent the units could be completed as soon as March 2021. This project aligns with the objectives set out in the Councils Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2019-2024. Given the increase in homelessness due to the economic and social impacts of Covid 19 along with potential further increases with the lifting of the moratorium on evictions, the project has been accelerated to provide much needed family accommodation.

The Planning application can be viewed on the planning portal using **ref 20/01274/F**.

### **Moratorium on evictions**

In March Government announced a suspension of social and private rent evictions. This came to an end on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Landlords and tenants are expected to work together to come up with affordable repayment plans for anyone with rent arrears. This is an area that we continue to monitor closely as there is potential for significant increased homelessness with the social and economic impact of Covid-19.

### **2 Meetings Attended**

Full council  
Cabinet briefings  
Cabinet  
Cabinet sifting  
Portfolio meetings  
Conversations with officers