

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL
3 December 2020

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING

Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Homechoice

Figures for October are as follows –

There were

188 New applications/Change in circumstance

1062 Live applications

3 Emergency

153 High band

339 Medium band

567 low band

There were 28 properties let

Next Steps Accommodation Programme-Funding Programme

The Council submitted a funding application on 20th 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. Both bids have been successful. Under one of the bids a West Norfolk Housing First Project which includes intensive wrap around support for up to six rough sleepers with complex needs providing support within their own self-contained accommodation will be delivered by March 2021. This project will be delivered in partnership with Broadland Housing Association and a commissioned support provider. This will allow us to provide long term accommodation with intensive, personalized support to the most entrenched and complex rough sleepers within our borough.

Under the second bid Broadland Housing Association will secure ten flats within Kings Lynn to be provided as move on accommodation for people

leaving 24/7 supported hostel accommodation. Under this model tenants will continue to receive support in sustaining tenancies and finding permanent accommodation. This process could take up to two years to ensure that people are properly supported and prepared to move on to independent accommodation.

Welfare Cabins

The Borough Council has procured fourteen welfare cabins to accommodate rough sleepers in self-contained accommodation at various sites around King's Lynn. Security and ongoing support by the Purfleet Trust and the Outreach Service (Sanctuary Housing) is also being provided. The welfare cabins are intended to be occupied for a short period of time whilst alternative longer-term accommodation is sought.

The Winter Night shelter

The Winter Night shelter opened on 6th Nov 2020 at St Johns Vicarage in King's Lynn. We have been working closely with Churches Together who provide and manage the Winter Night shelter. As a result of the pandemic and having taken advice from Ministry of Housing Communities Local Government (MHCLG) and Public Health England the Winter Night shelter has had to make changes in how their provision is being provided. In previous years the Winter Night shelter has opened from 1st November – 31st March with shared 'dormitory' type accommodation for up to 23 rough sleepers throughout the night. However, given shared accommodation is strongly discouraged due to the risk of infection from Covid19 and the requirement for self-isolating the Winter Night shelter is only able to accommodate up to 6 people this year at any one time in self-contained rooms. The Winter Night shelter has evolved the Night shelter service into providing the accommodation to its guests 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. The new venue is warm and welcoming. It has not been easy though and there have been some difficult compromises on the original purpose and objectives of the charity. Robust referral, triage and move on procedures have been put in place. Pathways have also been developed to move people on into longer term accommodation. The Housing Options team actively work with the Winter Night shelter, accommodation providers and wider partners to move rough sleepers into longer term sustainable

accommodation.

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. The application is due to be considered by Planning Committee on 7th Dec 2020. 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**.

Meetings Attended

Full Council
Cabinet sifting
Cabinet Briefings
Portfolio Meetings
Various Telephone Calls and Teams With Cabinet and Officers

