

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**21 January 2021**

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

For the period December 2020 to January 2021

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

**I would like to wish everyone a Safe and Happy New Year. I would also like to thank council staff for all their hard work in 2020.**

#### **HomeChoice**

210 new forms/Change of circumstances

1086 live applications

3 emergency

149 high

344 Medium

590 low

42 properties let last month

#### **Long Term Empty Properties**

There were 893 LTEP's at the beginning of the month which represents 1.2% of the Borough's total housing stock. This was down slight from the previous month which was 914 which represents 1.23% of the total housing stock.

#### **Evictions**

The moratorium on landlords evicting tenants from their properties ended in September 2020, however, when serving an eviction notice they had to give tenants 6 months' notice and no evictions could take place. There were some exceptions to this where a shorter notice period may be provided. These include those cases in relation to anti-social behaviour (including rioting), false statement and where a tenant has accrued rent arrears to the value of at least 6 months' rent.

From the 11<sup>th</sup> January bailiff action can be resumed, meaning that renters can be evicted where appropriate notices have been served. We have been monitoring these changes throughout and will be working with families, individuals and landlords to prevent evictions where possible. We have sought additional funding to help with this prevention work.

We would urge anyone who is experiencing difficulties to get in touch with the Housing Options Team as soon as possible.

### **Christmas Holiday period**

The out of hours Housing Options service received a relatively high number of calls throughout. The welfare cabins, winter Nightshelter and local hotels/B&B were used as temporary accommodation to ensure no one was rough sleeping.

### **Meetings Attended**

Cabinet Briefings and Updates  
Cabinet's  
Full Council  
Cabinet Sifting  
Teams Meetings with officers and various phone calls.