

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**25 February 2016**

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

For the period 29 January to 16 February 2015

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

##### **Home Choice**

The number on the register at the end of January 2016 was 1,627. An increase of 54 on the number at the end of December 2015.

19 applicants were housed into Housing Association accommodation during January.

147 new applicants were accepted onto the register during January.

##### **Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment**

The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk along with Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, Peterborough City Council, Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council are currently updating their understanding of the accommodation needs of the Travelling Community in the area. The assessment is a requirement under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and will assist the authority in its planning and housing functions. As part of this work the Council has commissioned Opinion Research Services (ORS) who are an independent social research company to prepare a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA). The work is scheduled to complete at the end of March 2016 with findings being reported to members prior to publication. The Strategic Housing team are currently overseeing the work with the other LAs and ORS.

##### **Custom Build Register**

The Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 places a duty on local councils to keep and have regard to a register of people who are interested in self build or custom build projects in their area. This register will help inform the council of the level of demand for self-build and custom build plots in the borough. It will also enable the council to develop a strategy for meeting the demand identified and matching people to plots in the area. Work is underway to develop a register and this should be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> April.

<b>2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled</b>
Cabinet Sifting Cabinet Discovery Centre Full Council