

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

17 November 2016

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

For the period 29 September to 8 November 2016

Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Home Choice

The number on the housing register at the end of September was 1,542. 70 applicants were housed into Housing Association accommodation during September.

Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment

The Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment (GTANA) was undertaken with other Cambridgeshire and Suffolk Authorities is now complete and likely to be published on the Councils website in the fourth coming weeks. Prior to this, the research will be presented to the Local Plan Task Group and a briefing note explaining the results of the research will be sent to all Members prior to publishing on the Councils website.

The assessment is a requirement under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and will assist the authority in its planning and housing functions. Recent changes to the definition of Gypsy & Travellers for planning purposes has also prompted the assessment to assess the need against the new definition.

The new assessment provides a robust and credible evidence base which can be used to inform the local plan review and aid implementation of development plan policies in relation to provision of Gypsy & Traveller accommodation the borough.

Accommodation Assessment for specialist elderly accommodation

A county wide assessment involving Strategic Housing, Planning Policy and Adult Social Care is currently underway to obtain and understand the implications of demographics and capacities for older person accommodation throughout Norfolk. The assessment will be disseminated at a district and borough level.

Focusing down we (with NCC Public Health statisticians / elderly care

commissioning officers / our Norfolk wide planning groups / and borough and district housing colleagues) are;

- preparing a report on needs for elderly accommodation (care home places / housing with care / supported spaces in existing homes etc)
- using that information mapped for detailed census units to find hot spot patterns etc
- Our Norfolk wide 'Duty to co-operate' Member group has this work as part of the preparation of a Strategic Planning Framework for the county area (clearly the implications of an ageing population is a significant planning issue of common interest)
- Very much taking into account things like the Care Act, there will be a number of scenarios that could be envisaged to provide a suitable response
- Those scenarios need to be designed with and the implications understood by NCC relevant groups and as appropriate embedded in local plans and allocations and policies.

It is important that we have a shared understanding of the demographics etc and how we (variously, but in a co-ordinated way) actually do something about it on the ground with better focus. We anticipate some preliminary draft findings of stage one of the work to be available to consider by the end of the year.

Shared Equity units at NORA

The first two shared equity units at NORA with the unsold shared equity being retained by the Council have completed and sold at NORA. With both units being bought by first time buyers. The remaining seven shared equity units (mixture of 2 & 3 bed houses) are under construction and being marketed with completion anticipated between January to March. From the first round of applications the units are generating interest from those to whom they are intended- first time buyers on lower incomes and currently living with parents or in private rented accommodation etc.

Food Hygiene

Currently 96% of rated food businesses have achieved a rating of 3 or more. The food safety team attended a careers fair for 6th formers at Springwood High School which was well attended. The purpose was to promote the work of the Department and inform students of the career possibilities both within Food Safety and the Council as a whole.

Council Tax Support scheme

The draft Council Tax Support scheme for public consultation was agreed by Cabinet on 7 September 2016. The consultation period then opened on 12 September 2016 and closed on 23 October 2016.

There was extensive publicity around the consultation and the link to the online form was widely distributed, including to all Councillors and Parish Clerks. 33 responses were received, although two had to be discounted as they had not answered the qualifying question. The responses came from a wide cross section of the community and some interesting comments were made. However no changes to the draft Council Tax Support scheme are planned as a result of the consultation, and the final scheme will now proceed through CPP, Cabinet and on to full Council in January 2017 for approval.

Meetings Attended

Cabinet meetings
Portfolio Meetings
Freebridge AGM
Tattoo Hygiene Presentation
Full Council
Local Authority Housing Company Meeting
Launch of Shared Services TMP
Meetings with Officers