

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**19 January 2017**

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

For the period November 2016 to January 2017

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

##### **Home Choice**

The number on the housing register at the end of December was 1331-248 High band, 370 -medium band and 713 - Low band.

30 applicants were housed into housing association accommodation in December.

##### **Rough Sleeping**

There has been an increase in the number of people sleeping rough on the streets, in tents or caravans in King's Lynn.

If you, or a member of the public is aware of someone sleeping rough they can report this via the Council's website – which links to a website called StreetLink which is funded by government. This provides more information about rough sleeping and enables the public to report a rough sleeper and for rough sleepers to report themselves.

The Council works with partners to provide advice and assistance to rough sleepers including providing a small number of Emergency Direct Access Beds – which provide an overnight bed when people are found to be sleeping rough.

##### **Benjamin Foundation**

I was privileged to be invited to The Benjamin Foundation in Norwich to discuss possible funding cuts by Norfolk County Council, it was quite clear that the work that is done to protect young adults is vital. It was also clear that support given to these young people helps them build a future and become self sufficient which has to be a good thing.

### **Food Team**

During quarter 3 the food team has dealt with 35 reports of infectious diseases: 25 Cryptosporidium, 5 Giardia and 5 Salmonellosis.

There have been 68 food complaints made and investigated – including complaints about premises and food items.

The team have also dealt with 2 burst water mains affecting a significant number of food businesses in the Borough and have also been alerted to 3 incidents of clandestine travellers in food vehicles.

It is also pleasing to report that 96% of food businesses score 3 or more in the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme and there are no zero rated premises.

### **Licensing Team**

1 Taxi driver has had their license revoked and 2 new drivers have had their applications refused in quarter 3. There have been no hearings for the Licensing Sub-Committee.

### **Community Housing Fund**

The Borough Council has been awarded £1.8million by the government as part of the new Community Housing Fund. This is a response to problems associated with high concentrations of second homes which can crowd out first time buyers by boosting housing supply in these locations. The funds will be targeted at the community led housing sector & be distributed to local groups such as community land trusts. Funding in the first year is primarily for capacity building. Officers are working to establish how we can maximise the impact of this funding in West Norfolk

### **Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled**

Cabinet Sifting  
Meeting Benjamin Foundation  
Cabinet  
Full Council  
Special Cabinet after Full Council  
Local Authority Housing Company  
E&C  
R&D  
Purfleet Trust  
Portfolio Meeting  
KLFM  
Meetings with Officers