

## **CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**23 February 2017**

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

For the period 19 January to 13 February 2017

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

##### **Home Choice**

At the end of January there were 1315 on the register- 230 High, 361 medium and 724 Low

There were 34 applicants housed into housing association properties

##### **Community Housing Fund**

On 23 December 2016 the Government formally announced the launch of the Community Housing Fund and the individual allocations to 148 local authorities for 2016/17. West Norfolk has been awarded £1.8m which represents one of the largest awards to any local authority. The fund is designed to support the delivery of community led housing projects in areas that have demand pressures associated with second homes and holiday homes.

The first year of funding is designed to ensure that there is sufficient capacity and skills to deliver an ongoing and sustainable program of community led housing schemes with funding from April 2017 focused on supporting the delivery of new homes. Further allocations will depend in part on whether the initial allocation is spent in accordance with the objectives of the fund. A plan outlining some initial delivery ambitions is being developed.

A cabinet report is forthcoming at the time of writing this report.

##### **Care and Repair**

We are currently working out whether to bid for providing a service in Fenland- we are costing this out with Accounts staff to make sure it is sensible for Kings Lynn Borough Council to do this.

Lots ongoing re hospital discharge. We provide cover for the QE

Handyperson and are working on fast-path schemes for ramps and referrals via the Community Rehab scheme.

The CIC now answer the Careline and Handyperson phone calls. The adaptations team to commence next month

For Care and Repair this year to date we have completed 428 major works and 671 minor works spending close to 1.5 million with over £600,000 spent from next years budget! The waiting list is close to 110 cases and with increases in demand the budget is likely to need to be £2 million next year with the bulk of the money coming from DCLG.

### **Licensing**

The Licensing team and Health and Safety carried out a joint operation with Trading Standards and the Police visiting 6 premises where it was suspected that illicit tobacco was being sold. At 4 of the 6 premises visited illicit tobacco was found in sophisticated concealment devices.

4 Licensing Committee Hearings:- 1 revoked, 1 adjourned, 1 licence surrendered by the holder and 1 granted

Applications Received:-

Animal Welfare	4
Charity Collections	9
Taxi/Private Hire	37
Licensing Act	46
Gambling Act	1

Taxi drivers face a fine of up to £1,000 if they refuse to transport wheelchair users or attempt to charge them extra, in a change to the law announced on the 7th February 2017 by Transport Minister Andrew Jones.

From 6 April taxi and private hire vehicle drivers will be obliged by law to:

- transport wheelchair users in their wheelchair
- provide passengers in wheelchairs with appropriate assistance
- charge wheelchair users the same as non-wheelchair users

This obviously only applies to vehicles that are wheelchair accessible.

### **Food Hygiene**

The Food team have been busy dealing with emergency incidents such as a flooding in a food premises and a fire at the leisure centre. Both required food to be surrendered. An interesting food complaint was received this month of a foreign object, glass, in a loaf of bread.

**Meetings Attended**

Full Council

E&C

Cabinet

Portfolio Meeting

KLFM

Audit

Meetings with Officers