

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

6 APRIL 2017

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY

For the period 23 February to 28th March 2017

Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Home Choice

Housing Register currently stands at 1352 – 234 in high, 371 in medium, 747 in low.

28 housed started in the last month

Supporting People – funding reductions.

As many of you will be aware the County Council (since 2003) has administered a budget used to fund housing related support services. These services include accommodation based services (including accommodation for vulnerable homeless people), and non-accommodation based services including ‘floating support’ services aimed at helping people maintain their tenancies. This funding is being reduced significantly – effectively halved, and this will have an impact on services locally and across the county. We will be working with County colleagues over the next few months to make the case for the retention of some of these services (including those supporting young homeless people) that are critical to some of the most vulnerable people in our area.

The Housing White Paper

The Housing White Paper – We have had an opportunity to digest the Housing White Paper published in February to understand the Government’s direction of travel in relation to housing policy. The document acknowledges that the housing market is broken, and sets out many different (including changes to planning policy), approaches that can be applied to help increase new supply. There is no one ‘silver bullet’ / single initiative in the document. There is a positive endorsement of councils taking a role in direct delivery, as this Council has done, in delivering new homes both for sale and rent.

Licensing

One hearing of the Licensing and Appeals Panel – driver was given a warning.

Health and Safety

Dealing with numerous complaints about unsafe working practices during roof repairs as a consequence Storm Doris.

Food Safety

Interactive presentation at a local primary school for Reception children demonstrating good handwashing practices and they need to wash their hands properly.

Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Full Council

Cabinet

Benjamin Foundation

Portfolio Meetings

Audit

R&D

Cabinet Briefing

L A Housing Company

Meeting with Benjamin Foundation and Crime Commissioner and Elizabeth Truss MP