

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

22 February 2018

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

For the period 5 January to 12 February 2018

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Home Choice

The figures for January are –

879 live applications

Emergency 1

High 146

Medium 243

Low 489

51 properties were let

Community Led Housing – Hunstanton

We are inviting people to get involved in our community led housing site in Hunstanton. A community consultation and engagement event is being held on 22 February between 2pm and 7pm. We want to find –people who are interested in shaping the development and even having a long term interest in its future. The site will provide a high proportion of affordable homes supported by a grant from central government. Low cost home ownership homes will form part of the mix with preference being given to those with a local connection.

Housing with Care

Norfolk County Council has recently produced a draft Housing with Care Strategy. This is a long awaited document that seeks to set out the requirements and policy direction for the development of Housing with Care in Norfolk via an evidence-based needs analysis and market analysis. The data shows that King's Lynn and West Norfolk is the area with the highest number of units required by 2036, followed by North Norfolk and Breckland. The draft identifies that further refinement work and analysis is necessary to strengthen

the robustness of this important evidence base. The Strategic Housing team have provided comments on the draft and welcome the opportunity to work with NCC on refining the data further. Given the need identified in the Borough, this is an important evidence base that will be used to inform local policy and decision making on new Housing with Care provision.

Housing Investment – Homes England

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) have gone and been replaced by a new organisation called Homes England. Homes England announced the results of the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) bidding round last week. Unfortunately the Council's bid for grant funding to support the provision of the relief road to serve the Strategic Growth area West Winch (3,500 homes) was unsuccessful. We had a chance to discuss with Homes England the way forward if we were not successful. We have a commitment from them to work through alternative options of funding the road. A due diligence process continues with 6 Council, owned sites under the Accelerated Construction Programme (ACP). This is further grant funding assistance from Homes England, to unlock sites with barriers to delivery. We expect to hear some news on the ACP round in the next two months.

Warm Home Fund

The National Grid and Community Interest Company, Affordable Warmth Solution have launched a £150m Warm Homes Fund (WHF) designed to support local authorities, registered social landlords and other organisations working in partnership with them, to address some of the issues affecting fuel poor households. Broadland DC is going to lead on a county wide bid, with a closing date is 9th February. If successful the scheme will primarily provide new heating solutions for fuel poor households including air source heat pumps in non-gas areas

Food Hygiene

Christmas can be a stressful time of year for some people, especially when cooking for a crowd. Which is why this year the food team took part in the 'Let's talk turkey' campaign, which offered helpful tips on how to store, prepare and cook turkey, and safely handle leftovers to ensure people are safe from food poisoning at Christmas. There were no reports of food borne illnesses over the Christmas period which indicates that people followed the advice.

The Food Team are currently working with a multi-agency group investigating the recent deaths to dogs on the Norfolk coast related to paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP). PSP toxins are primarily associated with bivalve molluscs such as mussels, clams, oysters and scallops. These are filter feeders and can accumulate PSP toxins, which are produced naturally by certain species of microscopic algae. Algal blooms do not usually occur during winter months in the UK and the source of the contamination is being investigated. Recent

analysis of bivalve mollusc and water samples, collected through the Official Control monitoring programme, have been negative for PSP and the algae associated with PSP production in the UK (*Alexandrium* spp.). It is thought that the contaminated animals were washed up on beaches during winter storms and are likely to have now been washed back into the sea. There is no risk to people or animals from the seawater. The only risk is from ingesting PSP-contaminated animals found on the beach, so simple precautions should be followed to ensure that pets and people do not eat anything they find on the beach. Further information can be found here - <http://www.eastern-ifca.gov.uk/paralytic-shellfish-poisoning-incidents/>

2 Meetings Attended

Cabinet Sifting
Full Council
Meetings with Officers
Cabinet