

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

27 February 2020

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING

For the period 24 January to 16 February 2020

Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Home Choice

In January there were 1018 live applications

137 High
236 Medium
645 Low

254 New applications/ Change in circumstance

There were 33 applicants Housed

Rough Sleeper Initiative funding

The Council has been successful with our bid to Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) as part of the Rough Sleep Initiative. The fund is part of the governments Rough Sleeping Programme which provides funding for Councils to get people off the streets and into accommodation. The fund will be used to provide support to those who are rough sleeping and have complex needs involving mental health and drug and alcohol.

Visit from MHCLG

Officers recently met with a member of MHCLGs Homelessness Advisory team to review our Homelessness and Rough Sleeper strategy and approaches to preventing homelessness and ending rough sleeping. The outcome was very positive, however the existing approach to care leavers within the councils allocation policy was deemed to be poor practice and required immediate action. Work is currently underway to amend the approach to this group. A letter from MHCLG setting out the findings of the visit is expected later this month.

Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment

The Borough Council is working jointly with seven other Authorities across Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk to commission a new Accommodation Needs Assessment for those living or needing to live in caravans and houseboats , including (although not restricted to) Gypsies, Travellers, Travelling Showmen and Bargee Travellers.

The Study will provide a robust assessment to inform policy development in Housing and planning and will form an integral part of the evidence base to Underpin individual Local Plans. Each Local Authority will receive a report detailing the findings at district level for their local authority area. The assessment and draft report is expected in May 2020.

Meetings Attended

Full Council
Cabinet Sifting
Meetings with Officers
Cabinet