

CABINET**Tuesday, 13th January, 2015**

Present:-

Councillor Burrows (Chair)

Councillors	Blank	Ludlow
	Gilby	Russell
	King	Serjeant
Non Voting Members	Brown	Huckle
	Hill	Martin Stone
	Hollingworth	

*Matters dealt with under Executive Powers

149 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interest were received.

150 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor McManus.

151 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 16 December 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

152 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1 February 2015 to 31 May 2015 was reported for information.

*** RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

153 **DELEGATION REPORT**

Decisions taken by Executive Members during November 2014 were reported.

*** RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

154 **CONSIDERATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ENTERPRISE AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON THE PROPOSED SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY**

The Committee and Scrutiny Co-ordinator presented the recommendations of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on the development of the Sports Facilities Strategy following a review by members of the Scrutiny Project Group appointed for this purpose.

The recommendations of the Project Group had been accepted by the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 18 December 2014.

The recommendations made were:

- (i) that the Sports Facility Strategy should include Priorities regarding facilities being community focused and aiming for positive health impacts, in particular for those with mental health issues and the elderly at risk of being isolated.
- (ii) that the Sports Facility Strategy should include reference to accessibility, physical access to comply with Sport England access standards and encouraging participation through community based delivery.

The Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's recommendations were now required to be considered by Cabinet in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

*** RESOLVED –**

- (1) That thanks be conveyed to Members of the Scrutiny Project Group and the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee for their work and observations on the Council's Sports Facilities Strategy.

- (2) That the recommendations be incorporated in the draft Sports Facilities Strategy, to be considered for adoption by Full Council.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To consider the views of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in the development of the Sports Facilities Strategy.

155 SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY (T000)

The Sports and Leisure Manager submitted a report to recommend for adoption a new Sports Facilities Strategy to satisfy statutory Planning obligations and to support delivery of the Council's core strategy and corporate priorities for Chesterfield.

In response to the Council's consultations on the Core Strategy, the Sites and Boundaries Development Plan Document and the new Queen's Park Sports Centre proposal, Sport England had identified that the Council did not have an up-to-date assessment of the need for open space, sports and recreation facilities, as required under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

As part of the development of the new sports centre at the Queen's Park Annexe the Council had entered in to a legal agreement for Sport England grant funding, which required the adoption of a Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy and a Sports Facilities Strategy. The Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy was adopted by Full Council on 17 December 2014.

To help develop the Sports Facilities Strategy, a needs and evidence assessment was commissioned and completed in November 2014. This examined the supply of and demand for facilities across Chesterfield in terms of quantity, quality, access and availability. The report outlined how the assessment was undertaken, as well as the consultation that took place.

The new Strategy sets out the facility requirements for indoor swimming pools, sports halls, and artificial grass pitches (AGPs) in Chesterfield Borough, taking into account known sports participation profiles across the Borough.

The new Strategy also contained an action plan that sought to address the surpluses and deficiencies identified from the Assessment Report. It listed a range of priorities, which would require addressing as part of the Council's asset management and investment programmes linked with the Council's core planning strategy and delivery priorities.

The main funding delivery mechanisms available and the standards and quality criteria for new facilities to be used in delivering the strategy were also outlined in the report.

The implementation of the strategy was to be monitored and reviewed by the same steering group that had been set up to monitor and review the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy.

The recommendations of the Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, detailed at Minute No. 154 above, had been incorporated in the new Strategy.

***RESOLVED –**

- (1) That it be recommended to Full Council that the proposed Sports Facilities Strategy for the protection, enhancement and future development of sports facilities provision in the Borough, be approved.
- (2) That the proposed Strategy Action Plan for the protection, enhancement and future development of sport facilities provision in the Borough, be approved.
- (3) That the Sports Facilities Strategy monitoring and review process be linked to the recently approved process in respect of the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy; and that the already established member/officer steering group be authorised to make any necessary minor changes to either strategy to meet statutory and local Planning requirements.
- (4) That future reports be provided to Cabinet where any requirement for significant changes that impact on corporate priorities, affordability, and Planning need may be identified.
- (5) That Sport England methodology be adopted in relation to both implementation and monitoring of the Strategy.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

To help improve the quality and affordability of provision of sports facilities in the Borough, and in particular the social, environmental and economic well-being of the area.

To comply with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) guidance for the Council's overall Core Strategy and Local Development Framework.

To ensure a robust strategic approach is in place establishing Planning needs and evidence data for informing and developing future projects and initiatives proposed in the borough including securing the Sport England Grant of £2m for the new Queen's Park Sports Centre.

To ensure Planning matters are suitably compliant and officers effectively manage quality and affordability; and manage associated risk to the lowest possible level.

156 HOMELESSNESS - INTERIM STATEMENT 2015/16 (H000)

The Housing Service Manager – Customer Division submitted a report recommending for approval the Homelessness Interim Statement for 2015/16, setting out the Council's approach to dealing with homelessness in the Borough.

The Council was required to adopt a Homelessness Strategy by the Homelessness Act 2002. It was proposed that a joint North Derbyshire Homelessness Strategy for 2015-2020 be drafted in partnership with Bolsover District Council and North East Derbyshire District Council.

The report outlined a successful funding bid by this partnership for additional housing advice and support workers to prevent homelessness amongst young people in receipt of benefits in the region.

The Interim Statement set out the framework under which the Council will develop and deliver homelessness prevention, advice and support services.

The report also described the improvements and successes in the homelessness service since the last strategy was approved, including an

increase in households assisted through homelessness prevention activities, a reduction of households in temporary accommodation, and support for other initiatives providing advice and support.

*** RESOLVED –**

That the Interim Homelessness Statement 2015/16 be approved and that a further report is brought to Cabinet when the North Derbyshire Homelessness Strategy has been drafted.

REASON FOR DECISION

To ensure the Council complies with its statutory obligations in having a strategy in place to deal with homelessness in the Borough.

157 REVIEW OF HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY (H000)

The Housing Service Manager – Customer Division submitted a report seeking approval to begin consultation on proposed changes to the Housing Allocations Policy.

The Housing Allocations Policy had been reviewed in light of the impact of welfare reform since 2013 and in response to changes in government guidance and Derbyshire County Council's housing related support programme.

Following the last review of the policy, the introduction of awarding preferences to households under-occupying properties and close working with the housing benefits team had assisted households in moving to smaller accommodation. There were concerns however at the rate of tenancy turnover, the level of tenancy breakdown for young people on benefits and the potential reduction in housing related support programmes

The proposed changes to the policy were explained in the report.

*** RESOLVED –**

- (1) That consultation be commenced for a period of 6 weeks regarding the proposed changes to the Council's Housing Allocations Policy, to include:

- Introduction of a 12 month Residency Requirement
 - Discharge of Statutory Duty in the Priority Band and offers to other groups within the priority band by direct matching
 - Re-introduction of Children in Flats Points - Transfer Band
 - Removal of Lodging Points
 - Delegated responsibility for minor policy changes to the Housing Service Manager – Customer Division, in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing
 - Ending of Sub-Regional Scheme
 - Introduction of a pre-allocation Risk Assessment
- (2) That a further report is brought to Cabinet following the consultation exercise.
- (3) That the draft Policy containing the proposed changes, and included at Appendix A to the report, be noted.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

In order to comply with the Government's code of guidance and to meet current and emerging demands and issues.

158

CONVERSION OF GRANGE COURT COMMUNAL ROOM (H000)

Further to Minute No. 102 (2012/13), the Housing Service Manager – Customer Division and the Housing Service Manager – Business Planning and Strategy Division submitted a report recommending for approval the conversion of Grange Court Community Room, Grangewood into three one bedroom houses.

The possibility of converting the building into a children's nursery was explored however this was not recommended as it was not considered cost effective.

Alternative provision of laundry facilities had been offered to the local residents affected by the closure of the community room.

Of the tenders received, Crestra were recommended to undertake the development on the basis that their proposal fulfilled all the tender criteria, was the lowest price and achieved the highest score at tender evaluation.

***RESOLVED –**

That Grange Court be converted into three one bedroom houses and that Crestra be appointed to carry out the works for a tendered sum of £154,245.67.

REASON FOR DECISION

The conversion of Grange Court into flats adds three much needed one bedroom units to the Council's housing stock.

159 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED –

That under Regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 – as it contained information relating to individuals, the identify of individuals and financial and business affairs.

160 SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE YOUNG TENANTS - AN UPDATE (H000)

The Housing Service Manager, Customer Division presented a report on a review of the arrangements to support young vulnerable tenants.

The report outlined the review of the current support provided, service demands and emerging issues in tenancy support such as the high incidence of tenancy breakdown, welfare reform and possible budget cuts by Derbyshire County Council.

The Housing Service Manager, Customer Division advised of the proposals for improving tenancy support for young people, such as tenancy training, literature for schools, and a mediation service.

It was also reported that additional funding was being sought in partnership with North East Derbyshire and Bolsover District Councils to provide specialist housing advice for young people in receipt of benefits.

*** RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the current position, the emerging issues and the plans in respect of the support to be provided for vulnerable young tenants be noted.
- (2) That a task and finish group be set up including officers and Members, plus key partners to explore the emerging issues for young people and to develop an action plan to address them.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

To ensure that Members are aware of the current and emerging issues facing current and prospective vulnerable young tenants and the support that is in place or planned to assist tenants to manage and maintain their tenancies.

To facilitate the development of an Action Plan with key partners to support young people.

161

UPDATE ON PROPERTIES AFFECTED BY SUBSIDENCE AT WESTWOOD AVENUE, MIDDLECROFT (H000)

The Housing Service Manager – Business Planning and Strategy Division submitted a report providing an update on the demolition of eight Council properties at 1,3,4,5,6,7,8,10 Westwood Avenue, and to recommend actions in respect of an owner occupied property at 2 Westwood Avenue in order to facilitate the re-development of the site.

The properties recommended for demolition had been affected by subsidence and all of the tenants of the Council owned properties had been rehoused.

Negotiations had been taking place with the owner of 2 Westwood Avenue and various options had been proposed.

Recommendations were put forward to conclude the matter.

***RESOLVED –**

- (1) That all of the previous offers made to the owner of 2 Westwood Avenue be revoked.
- (2) That the Business Planning and Strategy Manager be authorised to make a final offer to the owner occupier of either
 - a) the Council meeting the costs of rebuilding the party wall between 1 and 2 Westwood Avenue only, leaving 2 Westwood Avenue in situ and that if the owner of 2 Westwood Avenue should demolish his property within the next 5 years, then the costs of rebuilding the party wall are re-paid to the Council; or
 - b) the Council meeting the costs of the demolition and ground treatment of 2 Westwood Avenue only.
- (3) That if neither of these offers are accepted, then the Council applies for a Compulsory Purchase Order for 2 Westwood Avenue.
- (4) That the Business Planning and Strategy Manager be authorised to procure, through open tender the demolition of the Council owned properties and the ground treatment at 1,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 10 Westwood Avenue, and also the works when finally agreed at 2 Westwood Avenue.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To facilitate the demolition of eight vacant council owned properties at Westwood Avenue at the earliest opportunity in order to redevelop new affordable housing.