

CABINET**Tuesday, 21st April, 2015**

Present:-

Councillor Burrows (Chair)

Councillors	Blank	Ludlow
	Gilby	McManus
	King	Serjeant

Non Voting Members	Hill	Hollingworth
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*Matters dealt with under Executive Powers

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

No declarations of interest were received.

219 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brown, Huckle, Russell and M Stone.

220 MINUTES**RESOLVED –**

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 24 March 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

221 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period May – August 2015 was reported for information.

*** RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

222 **DELEGATION REPORT**

Decisions taken by Executive Members during March and April 2015 were reported.

*** RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

223 **LOCAL PLAN: SITES AND BOUNDARIES DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT AND APPROVAL OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (J010)**

The Development and Growth Manager submitted a report to advise on the progress with the Local Plan: Sites and Boundaries Development Plan Document and to propose the future timetable and arrangements for producing the Local Plan.

The Council's Local Development Scheme, published in 2012, had stated that a Local Plan would be prepared with the following Development Plan Documents (DPDs):

- Core Strategy
- Sites and Boundaries
- Staveley Area Action Plan

The Core Strategy was adopted in 2013 however the Sites and Boundaries DPD and the Staveley Area Action Plan had been postponed due to the delay in receiving key evidence such as new household projections. There had also been changes in the circumstances of the Borough, including its relationship to the Local Economic Partnerships and City Regions.

It was proposed that the Council ceased production on the separate Sites and Boundaries DPD and the Staveley Area Action Plan. Instead a partial review of the existing Core Strategy would be undertaken and a single, new Local Plan would be prepared for the Borough that incorporates the Strategic and Development Management Policies, Site Allocations and proposals for the Regeneration of Staveley Works. It was accepted that the existing Core Strategy needed to be revised in terms of the overall spatial strategy, in particular housing targets. It was therefore felt that there would be cost and efficiency savings in incorporating the separate documents.

The proposed change required the publication of a new Local Development Scheme for the Borough, setting out a public statement of the Council's programme for producing the Local Plan. It was anticipated that the new Local Plan would be adopted by December 2016. The existing Local Plan would continue to apply until such time as a new Local Plan was adopted.

***RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the Council cease production of a separate Local Plan Sites and Boundaries Development Plan Document (DPD) and also the Staveley and Rother Valley Corridor Area Action Plan.
- (2) That the Council prepare a new Local Plan that will replace the existing Local Plan Core Strategy and the DPDs proposed in the Council's Local Development Scheme 5.
- (3) That the Council adopt and publish a new Local Development Scheme 6 setting out the timetable and arrangements for preparing a new Local Plan.
- (4) That a Local Plan board be set up to provide oversight of the preparation of the Local Plan; the board's membership to comprise the Executive Member for Planning, the Shadow Member for Planning and the Chair of Planning Committee.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

To ensure that resources will be targeted at preparing a sound Local Plan.

In order to put in place a sound Local Plan with a five year supply of deliverable housing sites in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

To comply with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

To ensure effective project management and oversight of the Local Plan process.

224

HOUSING STRATEGY - ACTION PLAN REVIEW (H000)

The Housing Service Manager – Business Planning and Strategy submitted a report to advise of the progress achieved in meeting the actions and targets in the Housing Strategy 2013-16 and to recommend for approval the Housing Strategy Action Plan for 2015-16.

The report included details of the work completed so far in achieving the Housing Strategy Action Plan. Actions that were on-going and partially completed had been added to the revised Action Plan for 2015-16.

The Action Plan had been revised to take into account changes in the delivery of housing services within the Council and to reflect changes in both Government and Derbyshire County Council policy.

***RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the progress achieved in delivering the actions in the Housing Strategy 2013-16 be noted.
- (2) That the revised Housing Strategy Action Plan for 2015-16 be approved.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To set out an updated framework for our delivery of housing and housing related services.

To help meet the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities 2015-2019: to make Chesterfield a thriving Borough and to improve the quality of life for local people.

225 HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY – FEEDBACK ON THE CONSULTATION REGARDING THE PROPOSED CHANGES (H710)

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

Extensive consultation had been carried out over a six week period since Cabinet considered the proposed changes in January 2015 (Minute No. 157 (2014/15)).

The method of the consultation and the range of stakeholders contacted were detailed in the report. The majority of the responses received had been supportive with an overriding view that changes were needed to resolve the issues around tenancy breakdown and young people getting into debt.

The proposed changes were to take effect from 1 May 2015, with the exception of the pre-allocation risk assessment which was to be

introduced once additional staffing resources and procedural arrangements had been put in place.

***RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the following changes to the Council's Housing Allocations Policy be approved:
 - a) The introduction of a Residency Requirement.
 - b) Discharge of Statutory Duty in the Priority Band and offers to others in the priority band.
 - c) Re-introduction of 'Children in Flats' points in the Transfer Band.
 - d) Removal of Lodging Points.
 - e) Delegated responsibility to Executive Member for Housing.
 - f) Ending of the Sub-Regional scheme.
 - g) Introduction of a pre-allocation Risk Assessment.
- (2) That the revised Policy attached at Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To ensure that the Council is compliant with the Government's Code of Guidance relating to the allocation of accommodation and to manage issues emerging from the implementation of welfare reforms.

226 HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT FURTHER REPORT 2013 -15 BIENNIAL REVIEW (H000)

The Housing Service Manager – Business Planning and Strategy submitted a report recommending for approval the adoption and publication of the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Progress Report 2013 -15 and the revised Action Plan.

In March 2013, the Council adopted a HECA Further Report that detailed how the Council was to achieve improvements in energy efficiency within the residential housing stock in the Borough.

The Progress Report provided a two year review of progress against these initiatives and provided a revised Action Plan for continued delivery and improvement in energy efficiency.

The report described the range of initiatives that had been undertaken in the Borough and the sources of funding that had been accessed.

It was reported that there had been a reduction in the number of households in fuel poverty and in domestic gas and electricity consumption. There had also been a small reduction in domestic carbon dioxide emissions.

The Housing Capital Programme for 2015/16 also included a number of areas of work that would contribute to improving home energy efficiency in Council homes.

***RESOLVED –**

- (1) That the progress made in delivering the actions set out in the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Further Report 2013 -15 be noted.
- (2) That the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Progress Report 2013 -15 be published on the Council's website and submitted to the Department for Energy and Climate Change.
- (3) That the additional measures set out in the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Revised Action Plan 2015-17 be supported and delivered.

REASONS FOR DECISIONS

To address the issues of fuel poverty in Chesterfield and across Derbyshire.

227 FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF THE COUNCIL HOUSING STOCK (H000)

The Housing Service Manager – Business Planning and Strategy submitted a report recommending for approval the award of the responsive and repair work programmes to the Council's Operational Services Division (OSD) through a negotiated Service Level Agreement.

The report detailed the scope of the works that would be included in the Agreement. As there was no legal requirement to tender for services managed directly by the Council, it was proposed that OSD continue to provide these services as this was deemed the best value for money. Under previous contracts, OSD had made a surplus every year, which was redeployed within the Housing Revenue Account for the benefit of tenants.

The level of performance of OSD over the previous few years was reflected by the increase in tenants' satisfaction within the repairs arena as evidenced by the Tenant Satisfaction Survey results.

The Service Level Agreement was to replace Contract 013 in order to provide seamless service delivery to tenants of Chesterfield Borough Council in respect of its housing repair services.

***RESOLVED -**

- (1) That a Service Level Agreement be negotiated and entered into with the Housing Services' Operational Services Division for the future provision of the housing responsive and planned repair works programmes with effect from 5 October 2015.
- (2) That the Housing Services' Operational Services Division's performance against the terms and conditions of the Service Level Agreement be subject to internal review on an annual basis.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To contribute to the delivery of the Council's Corporate priorities 'to improve the quality of life for local people' and 'to provide value for money services'.

228

LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON TOBACCO CONTROL (T000)

The Environmental Health Manager submitted a report recommending that the Council sign the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control.

The report described the impact of smoking on the health profile of the Borough, as well as the financial and societal costs associated with smoking.

The Declaration was a statement of commitment to ensure tobacco control would be part of the Council's functions. The Declaration, based on a national model, was proposed together with other local councils via a partnership action plan for "Smokefree Derbyshire".

The Council's tobacco control actions would be included in the Health Inequalities plans and the Tobacco Control Alliance was to monitor progress of the partnership action plan against the Declaration's commitments.

***RESOLVED -**

That the Council signs the Declaration and commits to supporting its aims.

REASON FOR DECISION

To reduce smoking related deaths and illness and smoking prevalence within Chesterfield.

229 LEADER'S THANKS TO OFFICERS

The Leader expressed the thanks of Cabinet to officers of the Council for preparing and presenting policies and for carrying out all the actions in implementing the policies set by Cabinet.