



HOUSING SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting: Thursday, 19 November 2015 at 6.30 pm in the Cafe, Buxton Pavilion Gardens

Present: Councillor A McKeown (Chairman)

Councillors Atkins, Easter, Flower, Grooby, Robins and Sloman (until 6.48 pm)

Tenant/Independent Members – R Bowen and K Smith (from 6.37 pm)

Councillors Ashton (until 7.07 pm), McCabe and Thrane were also in attendance.

An apology for absence was received from K Martin.

16/28 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
(Agenda Item 2)

Councillor Atkins declared an 'other' interest in any item (reason: stepson is High Peak Borough Council tenant).

16/29 **MINUTES**
(Agenda Item 4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2015 be approved as a correct record.

16/30 **FAIRFIELD ROAD PROJECT**
(Agenda Item 7)

Consideration was given to the project timeline. Discussion took place on the meeting with landlords on 1 December, encouraging landlords to become accredited and the new scheme from 1 January 2016, enforcement and a possible residents' association.

RESOLVED:

That details of the new landlord accreditation scheme be presented to the next meeting and the project update be received with thanks.

16/31 **SYRIA CRISIS**
(Agenda Item 5)

Discussion took place on:

- Government commitment to resettling 20,000 from Syria
- Prioritising the vulnerable with 20% vulnerable and 80% other.



- 5 years leave to remain.
- Working through the East Midlands Migration Partnership to identify housing opportunities.
- Resettlement starting at the airport.
- County Council co-ordinating housing requests.
- 5 hard to let properties identified in High Peak.
- National response exceeding demand.
- Arrivals expected in January/February.
- Initial health and security screening.
- Case worker support services.
- Keeping the public informed and allaying misconceptions, while welcoming and keeping refugees safe.

RESOLVED:

That the update be received with thanks.

16/32 HOUSING PERFORMANCE UPDATE – 2015/16
(Agenda Item 6)

There was an update on the performance of the Council across a range of housing measures for the period April to August 2015. Voids and difficult to let properties were discussed.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted.

16/33 REVIEW OF DISABLE FACILITIES GRANT
(Agenda Item 8)

There was a report on the proposed joint County Council and District Councils transformation review of Disabled Facilities Grants and the potential impact on adaptation assistance and future funding.

Issues discussed included:

- Request to support the pledge.
- As yet unknown level of settlement.
- Average grant of £5,000 and maximum of £30,000.
- County Council receiving funding for dispersal but Borough Council responsibility and possible need for a contingency fund.
- Improving the process for customers.

RESOLVED:

1. That a representative from the County Council be invited to present an update on Disabled Facilities Grants to a future meeting.
2. That the report be noted and the Executive be requested to support the pledge made to the Derbyshire Partnership Forum.



16/34 GAS SERVICING AND MAINTENANCE 2015/2016 AND 2016/2017 PERFORMANCE REPORT
(Agenda Item 9)

Consideration was given to the performance results following the award of the Gas Servicing and Maintenance contract to Liberty Gas Services Ltd. It was noted that procurement makes provision to extend the agreement to a third year 2017/2018, subject to performance and to suit the future strategic needs of the Council. Sterndale Moor being without a gas supply was discussed.

RESOLVED:

1. That further investigation take place on whether there is national funding available to provide a gas supply in Sterndale Moor.
2. That the contents of the report be noted.

16/35 SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
(Agenda Item 7)

Work would be undertaken on timescales for reports to be added in.

It was reported that a suite of performance measures was being considered.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be noted and updated.

16/36 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC
(Agenda Item 12)

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business as there may be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

SUMMARY OF EXEMPT ITEMS

16/37 MINUTES
(Agenda Item 13)

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2015 be approved.

The meeting concluded at 7.20 pm.

CHAIRMAN