

**CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
**HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 24 MARCH, 2015 AT 4.00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK**

**PART 1**

PRESENT: Councillors

Kraujalis, J.T. (Chairman)  
Preece, J. (Vice-Chairman)

Allen, F.W.C.  
Ball, G.D.

Dixon, D.I.  
Grice, Mrs. D.

By Invitation: Councillor Mrs. M.A. Davis, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Leader.

Prior to commencement of the meeting, the Chairman reported that the order of the Agenda would change.

**24. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. A. Allt and Mrs. A.F. Bernard.

**25. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restriction on Voting by Members**

No Declarations of Interests were made in addition to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members' Interests.

**26. Minutes**

The Chairman referred to Minute 21. Provision of Photovoltaic Panels and reported that the installation of the panels would start in the week commencing 30 March 2015.

A Member asked if funding from investors had increased to take the threshold over the 170 bungalows that would have panels installed. The Head of Housing and Waste Management reported that the latest forecast showed that funding was likely to be available to enable panels to be installed on 200 properties.

It was reported that a broadcast from the BBC would be aired on 10 April regarding the Community Energy Initiatives. As part of the programme, an interview had taken place in Norton Canes regarding the Council's solar panel initiative.

The Chairman referred to Minute 18. Minutes and reported that the Caxton Court Sheltered Housing Scheme Wi-Fi installation would be taking place shortly.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January, 2015 be approved as a correct record and signed.

## **27. Houses in Multiple Occupation**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Environmental Health (Item 6.1 – 6.7).

RESOLVED:

- (A) That the HMO Standards as set out at Appendix 1 of the report be agreed and recommended to Cabinet for approval
- (B) That the principle of a risk based HMO inspection programme proposed at Appendix 2 of the report be agreed and recommended to Cabinet for approval

## **28. Quarter 3 Performance Report – Housing – 2014/15**

Consideration was given to the Quarter 3 Performance Report – Housing – 2014/15 (item 3.1 – 3.5).

### Implement the 2014-15 HRA Capital Programme

It was reported that there were 2,890 dwellings which required double glazing and window refurbishments. It was estimated that by October, 2017 all properties would be completed; as the original 7 year programme had been reduced to four and half years and the 2014-15 target of 1020 dwellings had been increased to 1090 following agreement of Cabinet.

### Implementation of the replacement Housing Management IT System

It was reported that it was important to ensure the new system was thoroughly tested before going live. The Head of Housing and Waste Management also indicated that mobile working was also being introduced for the housing maintenance service in tandem with the new system which had increased the complexity of the implementation programme.

### Current Tenants' Arrears

It was explained that the arrears were above target and had peaked in November, 2014 at £343,128k. However at the end of December 2014, they had reduced to £325,332. It was also reported that the arrears represented 1.6% of the Council's housing debt and in comparison to other Local

Authorities; Cannock was in the top quartile.

RESOLVED:

That the Quarter 3 Performance Report – Housing – 2014/15, be noted.

## **29. Right to Buy Social Mobility Fund**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Housing and Waste Management (Item 4.1 – 4.6).

A Member referred to the one-off cash payment of £20,000 which would help a household purchase a home and asked if this could be used in conjunction with a shared ownership scheme.

The Head of Housing and Waste Management reported that there was no information contained within the guidance document from the DCLG, and this would need to be clarified.

RESOLVED:

That the action of the Head of Housing and Waste Management following consultation with the Housing Portfolio Leader regarding the submission of a bid for £200,000 of grant funding from the DCLG “Right to Buy Social Mobility Fund” be confirmed.

## **30. Sheltered Housing Scheme Service Standard**

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Housing and Waste Management (Item 5.1 – 5.8).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed Sheltered Housing Scheme service standard as set out at Appendix 2 of the report be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

## **31. Work Programme 2014-15 Municipal Year**

Consideration was given to the Work Programme 2014-15 Municipal Year (Item 7).

Members discussed the Work Programme and were keen to see a number of items included for next year, including additional checks that could be carried out as part of the void process and reviewing the Council’s Allocations Scheme to see how it had been operating.

RESOLVED:

That the updated Work Programme for 2014-15 Municipal Year be noted.

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CHAIRMAN

(The meeting concluded at 4.55 p.m.).