



RUSHMOOR BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITY POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL

*at the Council Offices, Farnborough on
Thursday, 19th November, 2015 at 7.00 pm*

To:

Cllr M.D. Smith (Chairman)
Cllr M.S. Choudhary (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Sophia Choudhary
Cllr R. Cooper
Cllr Liz Corps
Cllr Jennifer Evans
Cllr S.J. Masterson
Cllr M.J. Roberts
Cllr P.F. Rust

Enquiries regarding this agenda should be referred to the Lauren Harvey,
Democratic and Customer Services, 01252 398827
lauren.harvey@rushmoor.gov.uk.

A G E N D A

1. **MINUTES – (Pages 1 - 4)**

To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th September, 2015 (copy attached).

2. **NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE AND FARNHAM CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP - VANGUARD PROGRAMME –**

Ms. Sally Banister, the Vanguard Programme Lead, has been invited to the Panel to provide Members with an overview of their Vanguard Programme experience.

3. **WELFARE REFORM UPDATE –**

To receive an update on from Mr. Ian Harrison, Corporate Director, on the latest position of Welfare Reform, nationally and locally.

4. **WORK PROGRAMME – (Pages 5 - 14)**

To note the Community Policy and Review Panel's work programme for 2015/16 (copy attached).

MEETING REPRESENTATION

Members of the public may ask to speak at the meeting on any of the items on the agenda by writing to the Panel Administrator at the Council Offices, Farnborough by 5.00 pm three working days prior to the meeting.

Applications for items to be considered for the next meeting must be received in writing to the Panel Administrator fifteen working days prior to the meeting.

COMMUNITY POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 17th September, 2015 at the Council Offices, Farnborough at 7.00 pm.

Voting Members

Cr. M.D. Smith (Chairman)
Cr. M.S. Choudhary (Vice-Chairman)

	Cr. Sophia Choudhary	Cr. Jennifer Evans	Cr. S.J. Masterson
a	Cr. R. Cooper		Cr. M.J. Roberts
	Cr. Liz Corps		a Cr. P.F. Rust

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Cr. R. Cooper and Cr. P.F. Rust.

7. MINUTES –

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th June, 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

8. HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2011-2016 –

The Panel was joined by the Head of Environmental Health and Housing (Ms Qamer Yasin), Strategy Enabling Managers (Ms Zoe Paine and Ms Sally Ravenhill) and the Housing Options Manger (Ms Suzannah Hellicar) to consider the Head of Environmental Health and Housing Report No. EHH 1510 providing the fourth update of the Housing and Homeslessness Strategy and the delivery plan. The strategic housing objectives had been established in 2011.

The Panel was reminded of the purpose of the Strategy, which was to make sure that Rushmoor's residents had access to good quality homes that were affordable and appropriate to their needs. The Strategy had four themes:

- housing supply and the delivery of good quality housing
- homelessness and homelessness prevention
- meeting the needs of specific groups
- neighbourhoods and housing standards

It was noted that during 2014/15, 149 affordable homes had been delivered, equating to a total of 431 since the introduction of the strategy in 2011. Members were informed that the Wellesley development work had started, with the first 20 affordable units available from Spring 2016. North Town regeneration was described as First Wessex's priority development, with 135 units delivered in 2014/15 and another 152 units due to be completed by 2017/18.

The Panel was informed that the old Sergeant's Mess at _____ had been developed into 45 units of temporary accommodation, with investments from Oak Housing and the Homes and Communities Agency. Some residents had been placed in the accommodation which was made up of large bedrooms that slept between 1-5 people, private kitchens and bathrooms and a large outside space. It was estimated that a £200,000 saving would be made by the Council per year. Members heard that this accommodation would only be available for seven years because of the Project Wellesley development, however, it was explained that more affordable housing would be made available before then.

During 2014/15, the Housing Options Team had given advice to over 600 households and provided 132 rent deposits to assist residents into the private sector. Rushmoor had given a £7,500 grant to go towards the Vine's Night Shelter, which assisted 28 people. It was noted that this was a very successful programme as it also encouraged people to engage with the Vine. The Panel heard that the the Vine had received an award for excellent practice.

The presentation included a number of examples of work the Council had been doing in order to meet the needs of specific groups, including consultation work with Planning on pitch provision for gypsies, travellers and travelling show people. Other work involved home safety awareness training for older Nepalese residents with Hampshire Fire and Rescue, work with registered providers to deliver specialist housing for older residents and the development of wheelchair accessible units along with 90 disabled facilities grants used for ramps, grab rails and stair lifts to help residents stay in their homes.

It was reported that reviews of registered providers had improved partnership working as the Council had been able to gain a greater understanding of the way the providers operated. Members were also informed of the Council's new partnerships with housing associations and Hart District Council.

The Panel was then advised of the challenges faced by the Housing Strategy and Enabling Team included the new rent regime, viability challenges on affordable housing and the unknown impact of the Right to Buy scheme. The Housing Options Team had continued to see an increase in demand for the services provided, including tackling homelessness and moving residents from temporary into settled accommodation; there had also been an impact on the service due to reductions in other services, e.g. Supporting People. The Private Sector Housing Team had faced challenges around overcrowding, disrepair in the increasing number of housed in multiple occupation and the ability to assist residents to stay in their own homes as there had been a reduction in disabled facilities grants.

Members were informed that the Housing and Homelessness Strategy was due to end in March 2016 and that consultation for the 2016-2021 strategy would take place in early Spring 2016. The Panel requested that an

interactive workshop should be arranged to enable it to have an influence in the early stages of the development of the next strategy.

The Panel **NOTED** the update.

9. **HOMELESSNESS IN ALDERSHOT CAR PARK –**

The Housing Options Manager, Ms Suzannah Hellicar, was invited to the meeting to update the Panel on Aldershot's situation with rough sleepers and the actions that had been taken.

The Panel heard that there had been an increase in the number of people sleeping rough or sofa surfing both nationally and in the Borough. It was noted that there were approximately 24 rough sleepers in Aldershot, although, it had been difficult to record the numbers of street homelessness due to individual situations constantly changing. The majority were men, aged between 19 and 65 and many had substance misuse issues. While there had been a number of attempts to engage with the client group, they had demonstrated an unwillingness to engage with the Council and agencies. It was believed that they had also been associated with anti-social behaviour in and around Aldershot Town Centre. 70% of the rough sleepers in Aldershot were Rushmoor residents while others had potentially come from neighbouring areas, where work would be carried out to re-connect those residents to their home areas.

The significant increase in numbers was due to individuals moving in with vulnerable residents which had then resulted in those residents losing their homes due to incidents of anti-social behaviour. Members were assured that the Council had been working with housing associations in identifying and stopping such behaviour.

Members were informed that approximately 8-12 homeless people had occupied the High Street car park which had resulted in a number of complaints about anti-social behaviour, hygiene and intimidation. Short, medium and longer term approaches were discussed with the Panel, in particular, the Council's intention to seek a legal injunction under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, which aimed to clear the car park and stop the anti-social behaviour in the Town Centre. The Panel was informed that while the injunction would exclude those named on it from certain areas in the Town Centre, the Council would ensure that they continued to have access to services they needed. It was also mentioned that the injunction would include positive steps, for example, the homeless must engage with Inclusion Services, the Housing Options Team, The Vine and other relevant services. It was explained that a multi-agency approach had been taken to tackle the issues and meetings for joint-agency problem solving had also been arranged. A multi-agency Hub had also been set up; a two-day event held at the Princes Hall which would be attended by Health, Drug and Alcohol services, Adult Social Services, the Police, Housing Services and The Vine.

Medium term options for consideration included eight existing beds to be made available to the most challenging and vulnerable individuals in

Rushmoor and Hart, out of hours community support for the vulnerable client group, continued multi-agency meetings and also an investigation into whether the Council needed a more robust method of outreach.

Longer term options for 2016-2021 were also discussed, for example, to continue the multi-agency meetings and joint working to ensure emerging issues would be rapidly addressed by all of the relevant agencies.

It was concluded that while this had been a difficult and challenging issue for the Housing Options Team, the multi-agency approach had been essential and a review of the legal approach would be carried out.

The Panel **NOTED** the presentation.

10. **WELFARE REFORM TASK AND FINISH GROUP –**

Members received a copy of the minutes from the Welfare Reform Task and Finish Group meeting that had taken place on 23rd June, 2015.

The Panel **NOTED** the minutes of the meeting.

11. **WORK PROGRAMME –**

The Panel **NOTED** the work programme and work schedule.

The Meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

M.D. SMITH
CHAIRMAN

COMMUNITY POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL WORK PROGRAMME

Set out below are the key issues which form the Panel's on-going work programme. The topics covered reflect the following:

- the development of a new policy for recommendation to the Cabinet
- scrutiny of the process of the way in which decisions have been or are being made
- reviewing issues of concern to local people or which affect the Borough
- review of performance and delivery of specific services
- monitoring and scrutinising the activities of others
- items raised by Members and agreed by the Panel for consideration
- review of policies and proposals developed by others

The purpose of the work programme is to identify the way in which topics are being dealt with and the progress made with them. An update will be submitted to each meeting of the Panel.

HEALTH AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

ACCOUNTABILITY AND AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Page 6

Housing Matters

- To carry out the Council's strategic housing and enabling role by identifying housing need and considering and developing initiatives to meet that need through work with the statutory, voluntary and private sectors.
- To consider, approve and keep under review the Housing Strategy, Homelessness Strategy and Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy in accordance with Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions guidelines.
- To deal with matters relating to registered social landlords operating in the Borough and the Housing Corporation and commit capital expenditure to develop new and improved affordable housing in the Borough.
- To carry out the Council's statutory duties under the homelessness legislation including the provision of a comprehensive free housing advice service and the responsibility for a homelessness strategy.
- To monitor and review the portfolio of temporary accommodation for the homeless and review that provided by registered social landlords.
- To maintain a housing register, allocations scheme and choice in lettings policies and the nominations policies and agreements with registered social landlords.
- To deal with all matters relating to the condition, repair, improvement, adaptation and energy efficiency of private sector dwellings, including houses in multiple occupation pursuant to the Housing Act 2004.
- To carry out the Council's statutory duties in relation to the licensing of houses in multiple occupation, pursuant to the Housing Act, 2004.

- To provide Private Sector Renewal Grants for the repair and adaptation of dwellings, in accordance with legislation and the Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy.
- To carry out the Council's responsibilities under the home energy legislation, particularly in relation to energy efficiency and fuel poverty.

Care in the Community Matters

- To undertake the Council's role in respect of care in the community policy issues, social needs and supporting people in conjunction with appropriate other organisations, including the County Council, Primary Care Trust, health trusts and the voluntary sector.
- To monitor and review services to the local community in relation to the Health and Housing Portfolio and administering grants as appropriate, in particular to the Hampshire Youth Bureau, Emmaus Project, Relate and the local home improvement agency.

Health Matters

- To liaise and co-ordinate with local health organisations and bodies to improve facilities in the Borough.
- To work in partnership with local health organisations and bodies to promote the health needs of the Borough and in particular to support the activities of the Healthy Rushmoor Alliance.
- To exercise the Council's functions in relation to health education and to participate in local and national initiatives and campaigns as appropriate.

SCRUTINY

DATE RAISED	ISSUE	CURRENT POSITION	PROCESS AND TIMETABLE	CONTACT (SERVICE MANAGER)
HOUSING MATTERS				
11.12.03	First Wessex (FW) - Performance and Review	<p>FW to attend one meeting of the Community Panel each year to cover scrutiny, performance and delivery. Two Joint FW and RBC joint Business Meetings to be held as a pilot arrangement. Items for the Panel meeting to be submitted to the Head of Environmental Health Housing Services in advance.</p> <p>A special meeting was held on 6th February, 2014 at 2.30 pm with various members to discuss leaseholder service charges and service charges in general.</p>	<p>The FW / RBC Business meeting took place on Thursday, 23 July, 2015 the next business meeting will take place in February, 2016.</p> <p>FW to attend the meeting of the Panel on 4 February, 2016.</p>	<p>Qamer Yasin Head of Environmental Health and Housing Tel. (01252) 398640 Email: qamer.yasin@rushmoor.gov.uk</p>
15.06.06	Registered Providers of Social Housing Review Group (RPSHs)	<p>The RPSH Review Group has been set in order for Members to meet with Registered providers of social housing.</p> <p>The emphasis of the meetings was to question the landlords on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • housing management, 	<p>Appointments to the Group were made at the Panel meeting on 11 June, 2015 for the 2015/16 Municipal year.</p> <p>The Group would meet to agree what Associations would be Reviewed and the questions that would be raised.</p>	<p>Qamer Yasin Head of Environmental Health and Housing Tel. (01252) 398640 Email: qamer.yasin@rushmoor.gov.uk</p>

Page 8

DATE RAISED	ISSUE	CURRENT POSITION	PROCESS AND TIMETABLE	CONTACT (SERVICE MANAGER)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintenance of property • the environment • tenant involvement • customer service • with development issues being secondary. 	<p>Meetings for the Group for this municipal year to be organised and a work programme to be agreed.</p> <p>An outcome report of the Review for 2015/16 would be submitted to the meeting of the Panel on 7 April, 2016.</p>	

HEALTH MATTERS –

Jan, 2007	<p>Health Issues</p> <p>Monitoring and influencing the configuration and delivery of local health services.</p> <p>Review the implications of the Government's White Paper and to engage with the Director of Public Health, local GPs and Frimley Park Hospital.</p>	<p>The Panel has a key role in monitoring and influencing the public health agenda. The Panel has agreed that a Health Issues Standing Group would be appointed to discuss any current and future consultation relating to health issues / changes in the area. The outcome of the meeting would be submitted to the Panel for agreements.</p>	<p>Meetings of the Health Issues Standing Group to be organised for 2015 /16 Municipal Year and a programme of work to be developed for the Year.</p>	<p>Andrew Lloyd Chief Executive Tel. (01252) 398397 Email. andrew.lloyd@rushmoor.gov.uk /</p>
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DATE RAISED	ISSUE	CURRENT POSITION	PROCESS AND TIMETABLE	CONTACT (SERVICE MANAGER)
	<p>Health Watch</p> <p>Scrutinising and developing relationships and links with local health organisations and key partners.</p>	<p>Representatives from local health organisations and key partners to be invited to meetings of the Panel to provide details on performance management, current work / initiatives and financial background.</p>	<p>Organisations including Frimley Park Hospital, Surrey and Hampshire Border, PCT Commission Arm and Hampshire Local Involvement Network (Link).</p> <p>The Panel would continue to monitor the range of services provided at the Centre for Health, Aldershot.</p> <p>The Panel to receive details on the outcome of the HCC Health Scrutiny at a future meeting.</p>	<p>Andrew Lloyd Chief Executive Tel. (01252) 398397 Email. andrew.lloyd@rushmoor.gov.uk /</p>
CARE IN THE COMMUNITY				
04.09.07	<p>Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy</p>	<p>Louise Webber, Community Development Manager, and Debbie Whitcombe, Neighbourhood Development Officer, attended the meeting of the Panel on 24 September, 2014 and provided an update on Year 3 of the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.</p>	<p>A further update would be provided to the Panel on 4 February, 2016.</p>	<p>Ian Harrison, Corporate Director Tel. (01252) 398400 ian.harrison@rushmoor.gov.uk</p>

POLICY

DATE RAISED	ISSUE	CURRENT POSITION	PROCESS AND TIMETABLE	CONTACT (SERVICE MANAGER)
HOUSING MATTERS				
2008/2010	Housing and Homelessness Strategies 2011-2016 and Action Plan	<p>The Panel has appointed a Housing Strategy Group, comprising councillors and representatives from a range of organisations, to debate the key themes and issues, help set the objectives and aims, look at options and assist in formulating actions and targets for the Housing Strategy.</p> <p>A new strategy for the period 2011-2016 had been prepared taking into account national, regional, sub-regional and local issues and incorporates the Empty Property Strategy.</p>	<p>The Panel received a report which sought views on the draft Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2011-16 at its meeting on 16th June, 2011. The proposed draft would be circulated to partners and stakeholders for consultation and the final version to Cabinet.</p> <p>The 2011/16 Strategy performances and Delivery Plan / action plan was submitted to the meeting of the Panel on 12th September, 2012.</p> <p>The Panel would monitor the work of the Housing Options Team and further updates to be provided to the Panel on 4 February, 2016.</p> <p>The Panel received the Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2011-2016 – Update 2015 at its meeting on 17 September, 2015.</p>	<p>Qamer Yasin Head of Environmental Health and Housing Tel. (01252) 398640 Email: qamer.yasin@rushmoor.gov.uk</p>

DATE RAISED	ISSUE	CURRENT POSITION	PROCESS AND TIMETABLE	CONTACT (SERVICE MANAGER)
2009/10	Social Housing and the Recession	<p>The Mid Cycle Members agreed to add this item to the Work Programme as a result of the current financial climate, and preventative work being undertaken by the Council.</p> <p>The Council had received funding a three-year Family Intervention Project in partnership with Hart District Council and Hampshire Support People to provide housing-related support</p>	<p>An update on home repossession figures was submitted to the meeting of the Panel on 25th November, 2010. The Panel would monitor and review housing benefit and other legislative changes, which may affect home repossession.</p> <p>The Panel will receive further updates when requested.</p>	<p>Qamer Yasin Head of Environmental Health and Housing Tel. (01252) 398640 Email: qamer.yasin@rushmoor.gov.uk</p>
24.11.2010	Housing Reform 2011	<p>The Mid Cycle Members agreed to add this item to the Work Programme as a result of the significant affects and monitor the impact on the Borough as a result of the Housing Reform 2011.</p>	<p>Qamer Yasin prepared a briefing paper on the Tenancy Strategy, providing information on issues, obligations and timescale.</p> <p>The Panel to receive ongoing updates and performance measures on the Strategies.</p> <p>Mr Peter Walters attended the meeting of the Panel on 28 March 2013 and gave a presentation on the impact to registered providers of social housing following changes in Government benefit and housing policies, including the Council's Tenancy Strategy.</p>	<p>Qamer Yasin Head of Environmental Health and Housing Tel. (01252) 398640 Email: qamer.yasin@rushmoor.gov.uk</p>

DATE RAISED	ISSUE	CURRENT POSITION	PROCESS AND TIMETABLE	CONTACT (SERVICE MANAGER)
29.03.2012	Welfare Reform	<p>At the meeting of the Panel on 29th March, 2012, it was requested that this item would be added to the Panel's programme of work as a result of the significant changes to the Borough as a result of the Welfare Reform.</p> <p>The Panel agreed that a task and finish group should be established including the Cabinet Member for Concessions and Community Support in order to consider the preparation for the development of the council tax support scheme.</p>	<p>Ian Harrison provided details of the Welfare Reform and the requirement for local authorities to develop a local council tax support scheme at its meeting on 29th March, 2012. A task and finish Group was appointed to develop the support scheme.</p> <p>The Panel to receive yearly updates on progression.</p> <p>The next update to be presented to the Panel on 19 November, 2015.</p>	<p>Ian Harrison, Corporate Director, Tel. (01252) 398400, Email. ian.harrison@rushmoor.gov.uk</p>

COMMUNITY POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL

WORK FLOW – 2015 / 16

11 June 2015	A Dubarry	Step by Step Appointments to Groups
Mid-Cycle Meeting 3 September 2015 5.30pm		
17 September 2015	Z Paine S Hellicar	Housing & Homelessness Strategy Homelessness in Multi-Storey Car Park, Aldershot
Mid-Cycle Meeting 22 October 2015 5.30pm		
19 November 2015	S Banister I Harrison	North East Hampshire & Farnham CCG Vanguard Programme Welfare Reform
Mid-Cycle Meeting 7 January 2016 5.30pm		
4 February 2016	C Williams L Webber / D Whitcombe S Hellicar	First Wessex Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy Housing Options Resources

Mid-Cycle Meeting 17 March 2016 5.30pm		
7 April 2016	Z Paine	Outcome of Review of Registered Providers 2015/16

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