



## Housing Policy Sub-Committee

**Draft Minutes of a meeting held on Monday 12 November 2018 at 10.00am, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston**

**Present:** Councillors: Tony Boto (Chairman)  
Richard Lewis (Vice Chairman)  
Steven North  
David Jenney  
Val Carter  
David Brackenbury

Officers: Sharn Matthews (Executive Director and Monitoring Officer)  
Carol Conway (Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager)  
Louise Bagley (Housing Services Officer)  
Richard Palmer (Planning Policy and Conservation Manager)

### **1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Sarah Peacock and officers Paul Bland, Head of Planning Services; Jenny Walker, Environmental Protection Manager; Chris Spong, Housing and Planning Officer and Aine Cooper, Housing Enabling Officer.

### **2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2.1 No interests were declared.

### **3.0 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2018**

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### **4.0 QUESTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 10.3**

4.1 There were no questions submitted under Procedure Rule 10.3.

### **5.0 HOMELESSNESS UPDATE REPORT**

5.1 The report detailed the effects of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 since its introduction six months ago, including the significant new duties placed on the Council. A minor amendment of the wording in the table at 1.3 to remove the word 'pot' was agreed for future reports. It was noted that a separate report on homelessness spending and funding will be presented shortly to feed into the budget setting process.

5.2 Under the new Homelessness Reduction Act, Homelessness Preventions must be recorded and reported formally to the Government. This differs from the old legislation where informal action was often taken prior to any formal homelessness application. New Performance Indicators have been introduced to track each stage of the new process those whose homelessness was prevented or relieved, and those to whom full duty was owed.

Members reviewed the report and requested that the table at 2.6 be amended in future to

- 5.3 include the number of cases both ended and resolved in the period, recognising that those received towards the end of the period would still be in process.

An amended graph at 3.2, showing the reasons for homelessness 2018/19 was presented, and the contents noted. The Bed and Breakfast costs were reviewed, and Members requested clarification of the figures in the increase in ENC subsidy of Housing Benefit from the Revenues and Benefits Manager.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the effects of the new legislation and the current levels of homelessness in the district, as detailed in the Homelessness Update Report are noted, and the agreed amendments are made for future reports.

*(Reason: to accord with legislation)*

**6.0 LOCAL PLAN PART 2 – HOUSING DELIVERY CHAPTER**

- 6.1 The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager gave a presentation which set out the direction of the housing delivery chapter of the Local Plan Part 2 and explained the opportunity for providing a formal response through the forthcoming public consultation.
- 6.2 The report was reviewed, with Members expressing concern about the practical delivery of the proposed housing mix across the district when applications had to be dealt with on a site by site basis which did not appear to allow for a holistic balance across the district or sub area or the targeting of specific types of development at the most appropriate locations. It was proposed to replace the word 'aspiration' with 'balanced', and that balance should be sought across development sites as a whole, as opposed to a site-by-site basis approach. It was agreed that a summary of the conclusions of the housing mix aspirations study, together with figures of the housing mix achieved from recent developments, will be brought to the next meeting of this Sub Committee.
- 6.3 There was concern that too many demands were being made on individual developments e.g. for affordable housing, older people's provision, custom and self build. It was therefore suggested that mechanisms to allow specific sites to be allocated for specific needs, to encourage the development of communities and make best of use of local amenities should be explored.
- 6.4 It was agreed that Members would submit comments on the Local Plan Part 2 to the Executive Director (Monitoring Officer), who would, after consultation with the Chairman, formulate a response on behalf of this Sub Committee to the consultation by the deadline of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) To delegate to the Executive Director (Monitoring Officer), after consultation with the Chair, the submission of a consultation response on behalf of the Housing Policy Sub Committee.

*(Reason: To inform the policy direction of the Housing Delivery chapter of the Local Plan)*

**Chairman**

