



Housing Policy Sub-Committee

Draft Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 31 January 2019 at 10.00am, East Northamptonshire House, Thrapston

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

Officers: Sharn Matthews (Executive Director and Monitoring Officer)
 Carol Conway (Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager)
 Aine Cooper (Housing Enabling Officer)
 Richard Palmer (Planning Policy and Conservation Manager)
 Chris Spong (Housing and Planning Officer)
 Paul Bland (Head of Planning)
 Jenny Walker (Environmental Protection Manager)

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sarah Peacock and David Brackenbury and from Louise Bagley, Housing Services 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 12th November 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

5.1 The Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager provided a verbal update, advising that not much had changed since November 2018. There had been a slight increase in homelessness applications, due to formal applications now being required as opposed to being dealt with as an informal enquiry previously. An additional homelessness prevention officer is now in post at Homes Direct, and will be incorporated into the housing contract. Members requested that figures for the availability for *local* temporary accommodation along with the associated risks be reported at the next meeting of this Sub Committee.

6.0 LOCAL PLAN HOUSING POLICY ISSUES

6.1 The Planning Policy and Conservation Manager and the Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager gave a presentation, which was subsequently circulated. The key points were:

- National Planning Policy Framework (2018)
- North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (2011-2031)
- Rushden Neighbourhood Plan (2018)
- Housing Vision: Planning for Larger and Higher Value Housing (2017)
- Draft East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2 (2011-2031)
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment (2012/2015 update)
- East Northamptonshire Housing Mix Assessment (March 2016)
- Bedroom breakdown figures of development in the towns 2011-2018
- Property development in Rushden 2011-2018, including percentage of flats
- Analysis of properties within the Rushden Town Centre area
- Figures for market housing, rented and shared ownership from developments between 2011- 2018
- Provision for older people, including future forecast
- Provision for people with disabilities

6.2 It was agreed to put forward a proposed policy enhancement in the response to the Local Plan Part 2 consultation. Due to its impact it was proposed that the number of properties for older people on larger sites and the threshold hierarchy be considered by Planning Policy Committee.

RESOLVED:

- (i) to note the presentation
- (ii) to make the following submission to the Local Plan Part 2 consultation: Proposed policy enhancement; there should be a presumption against additional flats within a specified distance of the primary shopping boundary area of Rushden, unless needed to secure the future of a building of local significance, or to make specialist provision for older people, to enable them to access key services.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE:

- (i) That the 10% of properties on larger sites for older people and the threshold hierarchy be considered and a decision made.

(Reason: for consideration and decision)

Chairman