

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING 14 NOVEMBER 2017

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET TO RECOMMENDATION MADE AT MINUTE 190 FORWARD PLAN (NOV 2017 TO FEB 2018)

Recommendation:

That Cabinet considers this committee's comments on its Forward Plan and responds by way of advising on its schedule of innovative projects planned for February 2018 to February 2019 to respond to local need for housing, wellbeing and greater housing number delivery.

Response:

Thank you for the concerns regarding housing matters raised at Overview and Scrutiny committee while considering the Forward Plan. Whilst the underlying concern about the affordability of housing in the district is shared, the Forward Plan is not the sole document where initiatives and activity of the council would be found, nor the sole means of conveying them to the public.

As you will know the Forward Plan is a list of the council's key decisions that will be made over the foreseeable future and by law Cabinet must give at least 28 days public notice before making a decision which is financially significant in terms of spending or savings or which will have a significant impact on communities in two or more wards.

Our Corporate Plan is our strategic business planning document which sets out the council's future priorities and objectives. The plan is supported by strategies and action plans which set out the detailed actions to be taken to achieve those strategic objectives. Cabinet has just approved the revised Corporate Plan which restates our commitment to affordable housing. The Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan also set out a range of initiatives. These documents are available to the public on our website and subject to review in public. Our current Housing Strategy is due for renewal at the end of this year and will be consulted on and include new and refreshed initiatives. It will of course be scrutinised by the OSC in due course and require the approval of both Cabinet and Council.

There is also the part played by the Local Plan and the Development Plan and Infrastructure Panel in setting out and monitoring the strategic long term housing supply issues. We also ensure the appropriate consideration of policy decisions through the Business Routing Panel.

I hope you will agree that there will be opportunities for member input into the new Housing Strategy and that housing and long term planning matters are taken very seriously by Cabinet and this council, and that considerable work is done by our officers and with our partners to achieve our strategic Housing objectives.