

## Cabinet 29/6/17 - Comments from Overview & Scrutiny Panels

### Part I

#### Corporate Services

##### **Financial Update**

The Corporate Services O&S Panel considered the latest Cabinet Financial Update report and were informed that with regards to recommendation v) it should read £200,000 not £200,00. The Panel recommended that with regards to recommendation iii) it would help if the recommendation mentioned that the additional budget was for the new Forest Bridge School.

#### Planning and Housing

##### **Investment in Shared Ownership Provision**

The report was circulated to the Panel via email – The Chairman responded to say that he was happy with the report.

Councillor Beer responded: I wish to register my strong objection to the continuance of the Investment in Shared Ownership Provision as the £500,000 only assists 10 families per annum at time when the relatively recent statement within the Borough Local Plan that states that 434 of the 712 Annual Housing AON is required for affordable rented housing.

As affordable housing is almost 58% of the required new build per annum it is very obviously the major part of current and future need which urgently needs to be addressed.

There is obviously a desperate need to assist Housing Solutions and other Housing Associations to provide a huge number of rented housing units and the loan of the sum in question to such providers would yield a far higher benefit to those in need and the community in general in providing accommodation for many more than 10 of the large number of desperately needed essential workers under the continuance of the proposed scheme.

I hope that Cabinet will seriously consider withdrawing the current proposal and reconsidering the whole approach to the affordable housing problem.

It may be argued that such support was a Conservative election manifesto commitment - but as it was not stated in the glossy leaflets posted to the electorate it has little relevance to the residents at large .

I have not raised objections in the past to part of our limited Council Budget being used to assist a few essential workers to access the first steps toward house ownership, but the AON figure of 434 new affordable rented units p.a. changes everything

Highways, Transport & Environment

**Highways and Transport Works Programme 2017/18**

The report was circulated to the Panel via email – no comments were received.