

Recommendations and Comments to Cabinet – from the Planning & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel that met on the 28th June 2016

30th June – Cabinet

Part I

Properties for Homeless Residents

The Planning & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel unanimously agreed to recommend to Cabinet the following:

- i) Approves the use of two Council-owned properties for a day service and emergency housing for homeless residents.**

- ii) Delegates authority to the Managing Director/Strategic Director Adult, Children and Health Services and Strategic Director Corporate and Community Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to apply for all necessary consents and permissions to enable the recommendation i) and to finalise the details of the Service Level Agreement.**

Question raised	Response
<p>The Planning & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel commented that they would like to see an indication ASAP of the speed in which these proposals could be implemented if approved by Cabinet, the prioritisation of how it could happen and who would benefit. The Panel hoped the target of the 01 April 2017 could be brought forward.</p>	<p>Speed of implementation: Cemetery Lodge - six weeks for works to be completed. Quadrant – one month to design, two months’ application and two months for the works.</p> <p>Prioritisation of works The work will happen concurrently but Cemetery Lodge will come on stream first.</p> <p>Who would benefit. Work is being undertaken now by RBWM officers alongside the police and the Brett Foundation and Windsor Homelessness Project to understand better the number and the needs of the individuals who are homeless or in priority need. This triage process will confirm who will benefit but it would be homeless people with a proven local connection – two years employment or residence</p> <p>Earlier target date On the basis of the timings for the works, both could be brought on slightly earlier than 1 April 2017.</p>

Question raised	Response
<p>The Planning & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel asked what the Councils plans were with regard to getting empty homes in the Royal Borough back in use.</p>	<p>RBWM Property Company would be seeking to work closely with both departments in order to help identify and support this activity which may involve the purchase and development of properties that are on the long term empty properties list.</p> <p>In addition, Revenues and Benefits team is responsible for the collection of council tax and they monitor and maintain a list of long term empty properties. A part time officer inspects and audits properties to identify their status.</p> <p>An officer is based in Windsor who works for Flexible Home Improvement Loans Ltd, a company owned by 16 authorities who provide loans in order to bring back properties back into habitable use. She works closely with Residential Services part of the Community Protection and Enforcement Team to seek to identify properties within the Borough where such a facility may prove beneficial.</p>
<p>It was requested that an update be brought back to the Planning & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel in December.</p>	<p>A progress report will come back in December 2016.</p>