

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA

HEALTH AND HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW PANEL

Date: Thursday, 15 January 2015

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

Members:

Councillor Mrs M E Ellerton (Chairman)

Councillor D L Steadman (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors T G Knight
N R Gregory
Mrs K K Trott
Miss S M Bell
D M Whittingham

Deputies: P J Davies

D J Norris



1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel meeting held on 13 November 2014.

3. Chairman's Announcements

4. Declarations of Interest and Disclosures of Advice or Directions

To receive any declarations of interest from members in accordance with Standing Orders and the Council's Code of Conduct and disclosures of advice or directions received from Group Leaders or Political Groups, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

5. Deputations

To receive any deputations of which notice has been lodged.

6. Health Update

To receive a verbal report by the Executive Member for Health and Housing on Local Strategic Health Issues.

7. Annual Review of Housing Waiting List & Allocations Policy

To receive a verbal update by the Director of Community on the annual review of Housing Waiting List & Allocations Policy.

8. Presentation - Local Housing Company

To receive a presentation from the Director of Community on the Local Housing Company.

9. Preliminary Review of Work Programme 2014/15 and Draft Work Programme 2015/16 (Pages 7 - 12)

To consider a report by the Director of Community, which preliminary reviews the work programme for 2014/15 and the draft work programme for 2015/16.

P GRIMWOOD
Chief Executive Officer

Civic Offices
www.fareham.gov.uk
7 January 2015

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FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Thursday, 13 November 2014

Venue: Vannes/Pulheim Room

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs M E Ellerton (Chairman)

Councillor D L Steadman (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: T G Knight, N R Gregory, Mrs K K Trott, Miss S M Bell and
D M Whittingham

Also Present: Councillor B Bayford, Executive Member for Health and Housing
(item 6)



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies of absence.

2. MINUTES

Councillor Knight addressed the Panel regarding minute 9 of previous minutes. He explained that the last sentence in the main paragraph which read 'The Panel discussed the merit of the sheltered housing service and an intensive support service by a single agency (i.e. Fareham Borough Council) could lead to confusion for the tenant and their relatives. The Panel concluded that the Council should focus its efforts on providing a good quality sheltered housing service which would not be reliant on funding from other agencies.', was confusing and did not fully represent the views of the Panel.

It was suggested that the sentence now read 'The Panel discussed the merit of the Sheltered Housing Service and an Intensive Support Service being delivered by a single agency (i.e. Fareham Borough Council). The Panel noted that the funding for the Intensive Support Service would be in the control of Hampshire County Council (HCC) and therefore could be subject to future changes in eligibility criteria and levels of funding. The Panel expressed concern that as Fareham Borough Council would not have complete control over the future of the intensive Support Service, it would place the Council and its Sheltered Housing staff in a difficult position and cause confusion for the residents and their relatives (who may not necessarily understand, or be interested in the complexities of the funding) should the level of HCC funding and eligibility criteria be changed. The Panel concluded that Fareham Borough Council should focus its efforts on providing a good quality sheltered housing service which would not be reliant on funding from other agencies and therefore FBC should not bid to deliver the Intensive Support Service.

It was AGREED that, subject to the amended above, the minutes of the Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel held on 11 September 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that the Officer/Member Homeless Working Group had recently attended, as observers, a meeting of a multi-agency rough sleeper forum at Fareham Police Station, which discussed individual cases of homelessness. All members of the working group felt that it was a useful meeting.

The Chairman also made reference to the excellent work of the Homelessness Outreach Worker and asked officers to investigate the possibility of securing funding to extend this post.

The next meeting for the working group is set for Friday 28 November 2014.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS

There were no declarations of interest or disclosures of advice or direction made at this meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. HEALTH UPDATE

The Panel received a verbal update by the Executive Member for Health and Housing on local strategic health issues.

He explained to the Panel that the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has set up a project team which consists of the Head of Planning for CCG, and GP from Brook Lane Surgery and Councillor Bayford. The main purpose of the project team is to look at ways in which to use the Fareham Community Hospital to greater affect. One of the areas they will be looking at is the feasibility of providing a minor injuries unit to take the pressure off Queen Alexandra hospital who had another black alert last week and had to close the A&E department for a time.

Another area the project team will be looking at is Mental Health. Councillor Bayford informed the Panel that he had recently attended a seminar in Winchester where a lot of concern had been expressed regarding the lack of support for mental health suffers, and this is something that the CCG wish to improve upon.

The Executive Member for Health and Housing was thanked for his verbal update.

7. REVIEW OF HOMELESSNESS

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community on a Review of Homelessness.

The report was presented by the Housing Options Manager, who outlined the changes to the homelessness service over the past 12 months, this included reviewing the Homelessness and Housing Options Strategy, a restructure of the Housing Options Team (including a new temporary post of Tenancy Support Officer), the Launch of Fare-Lets (the Council's own letting agency), and the challenges for the homelessness team for the next 12 months.

The Panel was informed that the main issue that has repeatedly come up over the past year has been that of rough sleeping, which is currently being examined in more detail by the Member/Officer Working Group. The Panel were also informed that at the next meeting the working group they will be agreeing on the issues they will be taking forward and will start to look into the options they have for tackling these issues.

Councillor Steadman expressed concern over the proposed changes to 101 Gosport Road, and how that may impact upon the service that Fareham can deliver. The Housing Options Manager explained that the changes are as a result of the financial challenges facing Hampshire County Council and that Fareham Borough Council, but to work with HCC in order to minimise the impact to the Hostel.

Members also asked questions regarding the proposed housing company which will be set up by FBC, Eastleigh Borough Council EBC, Radian Housing and First Wessex. Councillor Knight requested that a report come to the Panel to update Members on the proposal. Members requested that a copy of the report that previously went to the Executive outlining the proposals for the housing company be resent to all of them. The Director of Community addressed the Panel to state that he would resend the requested report to all members of the Panel, and suggested that a presentation be added to the work programme outlining the principals to the scheme.

It was AGREED that the Panel notes the content of the report.

8. WELFARE REFORM UPDATE

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community which provided an update to the Welfare Reform.

The report outlined the changes to the welfare system since April 2013 and how this is impacting upon residents in the Borough. The report looked at the Social Sector Size Criteria, the Benefits Cap, Local Support for Council Tax and Universal Credit.

Members enquired as to whether there have been staffing cuts due to the changes to the welfare reform, and if so how has this impacted upon the service being delivered to customers. The Head of Housing, Revenue and Benefits confirmed that there had been no changes to staff, and as a result of the recent Vanguard intervention a much better service is now being provided to the customer. The only change is that due to the change is the service the revenue staff are now taking on more recovery work.

The Panel were informed that as of the 1 October 2014 Fareham Borough Council lost its duty to investigate benefit fraud as the responsibility of this has now been transferred to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), and as such the Council's two Fraud Investigators have now been transferred to the DWP. However the Council still has a duty to investigate housing fraud and council tax support fraud, and so a new Fraud Investigator post has been recruited and should start on 1 December 2014.

It was also explained to the Panel that the Council Tax Support scheme has to be reviewed every year. A public consultation was carried out which received a good response, the majority of people who responded felt that the current scheme was fair. As a result it is proposed that the Council Tax Support Scheme stays the same for next year.

It was AGREED that the Panel notes the content of the report.

9. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community on the Panel's Work Programme 2014/15.

The Director of Community suggested that the presentation on the Local Housing Company be added to the March meeting.

It was AGREED that, subject to the inclusion of the presentation on the Local Housing Company, that the Work Programme 2014/15 as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 7.47 pm).

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Health and Housing Policy Development Review Panel

Date **15 January 2015**

Report of: **Director of Community**

Subject: **PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15 AND
DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16**

SUMMARY

At the meeting of the Panel on 12 March 2015, members will be asked to review the outcome of the work programme for the current year, 2014/15. Also at that meeting, the Panel will need to finalise the draft work programme for next year, 2015/16.

The report contains details of the position of the Panel's existing work programme for the current year, in order to allow an early assessment of progress. It also gives some background information to assist members in drawing up the work programme for 2015/16.

RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is invited to give initial consideration to the outcome of the 2014/15 work programme and to the draft work programme for 2015/16.

INTRODUCTION

1. The outcomes from the work programme for the current year (2014/15) will be reviewed at the Panel's meeting on 12 March 2014. At the same time it will be necessary for the Panel to finalise its work programme for the next municipal year (2015/16).
2. In order to assist the process, members are invited to consider both issues at this meeting.

REVISIONS TO THE WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

3. Members are requested to endorse the following revisions to the work programme for the current year:-
 - (a) A report titled 'Affordable Housing Enabling Programme – Annual Update' has been added to the Work Programme for the March meeting;
 - (b) A presentation titled 'A Presentation on the Local Housing Company' has been added to the Work Programme for this meeting; and
 - (c) The report titled 'Annual Review of Discretionary Housing Payments has been removed from this year's work programme and has been added to the May meeting for the 2015/16 work programme.
4. A copy of the updated Work Programme, incorporating the above revisions, is attached at Appendix A. It is suggested that the current work programme for 2014/15 is completed.

WORK PROGRAMME – NEXT YEAR 2015/16

Scrutiny Board Responsibilities

5. Members are reminded that the Scrutiny Board is generally responsible for:-
 - maintaining an overview of the discharge of the Council's Executive functions.
 - exercising the right to call-in, for reconsideration, any decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive (and individual Executive Members) or key decisions made by officers in exercise of their delegated powers.
 - reviewing and/or scrutinising any decisions made or actions taken in connection with the performance of any of the Council's functions.
 - reviewing and/or scrutinising any matters affecting the strategic plans and financial affairs of the Council.
 - considering matters affecting the area or local people and, in so doing, reviewing and scrutinising the performance of other public bodies in the area.

Role of the Policy Development and Review Panels

6. The Policy Development and Review Panels are responsible for preparing their own work programmes. Those programmes should take account of the role of the Panels to:-

- assist in the development and formulation of policy.
 - report and advise upon policies and proposals relating to their particular service interest.
 - review the performance of services provided directly or indirectly by the Council.
7. There are six planned meetings of the Policy Development and Review Panels in the next municipal year, to deal with ordinary business.

Planning Next Year's Work Programme

8. Members are invited to consider items for the draft work programme for 2014/15. It has been previously suggested that a few items of major significance be chosen.
9. In addition to any other matters which members may wish the Panel to look at, the Executive may decide it wishes the Panel to carry out specific tasks during the next municipal year.
10. At this stage, particular items which are known to be coming before the Panel during the next year are:-

<u>MEETING DATES FOR 2014/15*</u>	<u>ITEMS</u>
28 May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Work Programme 2014/15 • Health Update • Annual Review of Discretionary Housing Payments
23 July 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Work Programme 2014/15 • Health Update
24 September 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Work Programme 2014/15 • Health Update
12 November 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Work Programme 2014/15 • Health Update
21 January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Review of Work Programme 2014/15 and Draft 2016/17 • Health Update
10 March 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Review of Work Programme 2014/16 and 2015/17 • Health Update

11. Other general items may arise during the year, such as responding to consultation requests by the Government.
12. Statutory strategies and policy framework items will need to be reports to any

combination of the Review Panels, the Scrutiny Board, the Executive and the Council, as appropriate.

RISK ASSESSMENT

13. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report

CONCLUSION

14. Members are invited to give preliminary consideration to the outcomes of the Panel's work programme for the current year. In addition, members are asked to start drawing up an outline of a draft work programme for next year. Further consideration can then be given to these matters at the meeting on 12 March 2015.

Background Papers:

None

Reference Papers:

Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel Work Programme 2014/15

Report to Council – 9 October 2014 – Schedule of Meetings 2015/16

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Martyn George. (Ext 4400)

**HEALTH AND HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW PANEL
PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2013/14**

<u>MEETING DATES FOR 2013/14</u>	<u>ITEMS</u>
17 July 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Work Programme 2014/15 • Health Update • Introduction to the Role of the Panel • Affordable Housing Programme 2015-18 • Development Opportunities • Collingwood Court Update
11 September 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Work Programme 2014/15 • Health Update • Disabled Facilities Grants 2014-16 • Presentation by the Chairman of the Clinical Commissioning Group on the CCG 5 Year Plan • Supporting People – Changes to Budget and Commissioned Services
13 November 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Work Programme 2014/15 • Health Update • Review of Homelessness • Welfare Reform Update
15 January 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary Review of Work Programme 2014/15 and Draft Work Programme 2015/16 • Health Update • Verbal Update on Annual Review of Housing Waiting List & Allocations Policy • Presentation on the Local Housing Company
12 March 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Review of Work Programme 2014/15 and Draft Work Programme 2015/16 • Health Update • Annual Review of Homelessness Action Plan • Affordable Housing Enabling Programme - Annual Update

Unallocated Item: Presentation by Richard Samuels the Chief Officer of the CCG - 'How the Emergency Care System is Planned and Works'