

HOUSING TASK GROUP UPDATE

Executive Summary

The first meeting was held on 27 July and elected Cllr Barker as Chair and Cllr Whitehand as Vice-Chair.

Draft Housing Strategy

The draft Housing Strategy was reviewed prior to going to Council and the Task Group were pleased to see feedback from public consultation had been fully assessed and key points incorporated in the strategy. Encouraging downsizing was discussed and the Director of Housing set out offers that could make the move attractive. The Group learnt that a new government scheme, First Homes, would be replacing shared ownership and a report on this is to be presented to the next meeting.

NVH and bringing Housing Services In-house

NVH and Council officers were working to speed up void turnarounds and reduce repair service complaints. The Task Group received an update on the tendering of maintenance and repairs services and how council home residents will be engaged in future. The Group were pleased to learn that all companies providing services would be required to pay the living wage.

Tackling homelessness

Excellent news that at the time of the meeting there was nobody currently on the streets. Looking ahead the team had applied for government funding to provide move on accommodation and support for those living in these properties.

The Task Group also heard about recently completed affordable homes at Hale End and in the purple phase of Sheerwater; the successes and challenges of the Selective Licensing scheme; progress on bringing empty properties back into use and bringing Council homes to the decent homes standard.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

RESOLVE That the report be noted.

The Committee has the authority to determine the recommendation set out above.

Background Papers: None.

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REPORT ENDS