

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

GENERAL REPORT - 13 September 2012

1. The Cabinet's recommendations on the reports that require Council decisions appear as separate items on the agenda.

Safeguarding Adults - Policy and Procedure

2. The Executive Member (People) presented a report seeking approval for the adoption of a policy and procedure relating to dealing with adult safeguarding issues that representatives of Chorley Council might encounter.
3. The Council's current adult safeguarding arrangements and documentation had been limited to activities and services provided at Cotswold House. A recent external audit of the Council's provisions has identified a gap in policy and procedures across the rest of the Council where officers and Members might come across adult safeguarding issues or receive disclosures of abuse from adult victims.
4. The purpose of the document is to safeguard vulnerable adults. We supported briefings for officers and Councillors to ensure they are fully aware of their responsibilities and the reporting mechanisms in place. I stressed the importance of working with the Police, as Councillors and Council officers have, at times, greater access to people and their homes than the Police.
5. In response to a query we noted that if additional guidance is needed a Councillor or officer can ask for advice from a Designated Safeguarding Officer. If required advice can be requested without giving the name of the person involved.
6. We approved the policy and procedures for ensuring concerns raised by Council representatives in relation to adult safeguarding are properly dealt with.

Selectmove Evaluation

7. The Executive Member (Homes and Business) presented a report providing information regarding lettings of properties through the sub-regional Choice Based Lettings system, Selectmove, through which the majority of social housing in Chorley has been allocated since 27 March 2011.
8. Choice Based Letting systems are designed to allow the applicant to have more choice over where they live by proactively bidding on properties they want to live in rather than waiting to be allocated a property on a traditional waiting list.
9. South Ribble and Preston City Council have been jointly operating a choice based lettings system since 2007. At the time of making the decision the Council recognised the benefits of giving people in the area more choice, however, it was considered important that people with a local connection to Chorley accessed a significant number of the Chorley properties. Due to concerns the policy is being reviewed in respect of the gross inward migration.
10. Throughout the last financial year there have been 405 lets in Chorley and 80.2% of the lets were to households living in Chorley or with a Chorley connection (e.g. employment, previously lived in the area, or to give or receive support). Therefore inward migration from other council areas with no local connection has been 19.8%, however when the households in Chorley who chose to move to Preston or South Ribble the net inward migration was 10.4%.
11. One of the benefits of the system is the ability to drill down into the detail which will assist with future policy development.
12. In order to increase the supply of social housing to households with a local connection and ensure that the 10% threshold is not exceeded going forward a review of the current policy options is being undertaken working with partners in the Select Move scheme as a matter of urgency. In the interim a number of actions will be undertaken.

13. These include pro-active promotion of Select Move to Chorley residents, including a press release, posters and a new quick reference guide which will also inform applicants who need assistance how Chorley Council can help them bid for properties.
14. There will also be close monitoring of migration on a monthly basis so early interventions can take place. A new Selectmove application form will make it easier to monitor and report on local connection, in conjunction with changes to the online forms. It was clarified that the application form is currently in paper format, but the bidding process is online. Different options are being investigated on how to best assist residents' access system.
15. We noted that all new build and newly acquired social housing will be covered by a new Local Connection Policy.
16. We noted the findings of the report and future actions outlined within it.

Shared Financial Services - Budget Review 2012/13

17. The Executive Member (Resources, Policy and Performance) presented a report seeking approval to implement the recommendation proposed following the Shared Financial Services Budget Review and in the light of feedback received during the consultation process. The report also follows on from, and is consistent with, the Shared Services Joint Management Committee recommendation made on 26 March 2012.
18. We approved the report for implementation and specifically the eight proposals post the consultation period.

Streetscene Review

19. The Executive Member (People) presented a report seeking approval to consult on changes to the structure of the Streetscene and Leisure Contracts team.
20. We approved the proposed structure detailed in the report for consultation and that following consultation, subject to only minor alterations, the final decision to implement the proposals be delegated to the Executive Member for Places and supported by the HR team.

Recommendation

21. To note the report.

COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BRADLEY
Executive Leader

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