




13 July 2017 at 7.00 pm

Conference Room, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks
Despatched: 10.07.17

Cabinet

Supplementary Agenda - Minute references from Housing & Health Advisory Committee

	Pages	Contact
5. Redress Schemes for Lettings Agency Work and Property Management Work (requirement to belong to a scheme etc) (England) Order 2014	(Replacement page 9)	James Cox Tel: 01732227312
6. Housing Strategy 2017	(Replacement page 17)	Gavin Missons Tel: 01732 227332
		
7. Sevenoaks District Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme Policy	(Replacement page 87)	Hayley Brooks Tel: 01732 227272
		
8. Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (VPRS) - Community Sponsorship Programme Resettlement Plan Assessment	(Replacement page 103)	Hayley Brooks Tel: 01732 227272
		

Item 5 - Redress Schemes for Lettings Agency Work and Property Management Work (requirement to belong to a scheme etc) (England) Order 2014

The relevant Minute extract from the Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 20 June 2017 is now available.

Housing & Health Advisory Committee (20 June 2016, Minute 8)

The Private Sector Housing Team Leader presented the report which advised Members that the Order made it a legal requirement for all lettings agents and property managers in England to join a Government-approved redress scheme by 1 October 2014. Enforcement and the setting of the level of penalty charge applicable for a breach of the Order was the responsibility of the Council. He advised that he would bring an update report to the Committee after a year.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet to approve a penalty charge of £5,000 for breaching the order, unless following representation extenuating circumstance applies.

Item 6 - Housing Strategy 2017

The relevant Minute extract from the Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 20 June 2017 is now available.

Housing & Health Advisory Committee (20 June 2016, Minute 10)

The Housing Policy Manager introduced a report which presented the findings of the recent public consultation on the new Draft Housing Strategy. The strategy set out a series of strategic priorities, many updated from the previous housing strategy, under the following three headings: providing a good mix of decent and affordable housing across tenures; Improving the quality and use of existing housing stock; and meeting the needs of vulnerable and low income households. If approved, more detailed action plans (where required) would be prepared to deliver on the agreed strategies. Once completed, these would be made available to Members as internal working documents.

If approved the Housing Strategy would be formally launched the published at a housing forum which was currently planned for late 2017. Members would be formally invited to the event and a copy of the final document provided.

The Housing Policy Manager advised that he would bring twice yearly update reports to the Housing & Health and the Planning Advisory Committees.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet to recommend to Council to approve the Draft Housing Strategy.

Item 7 - Sevenoaks District Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme Policy

The relevant Minute extract from the Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 20 June 2017 is now available.

Housing & Health Advisory Committee (20 June 2016, Minute 11)

The Housing and Health Manager presented the report which set out the Council's Policy for participating in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (SVPRS) in Kent. Members were asked to consider the report to Cabinet which recommended adoption of the Sevenoaks District SVPRS Policy to enable the Council to support the resettlement of Syrian refugee families, if suitable and affordable housing was identified. Decision making on a case by case basis would be achieved through delegated powers to the Portfolio Holder responsible for Housing, following consultation with local Members.

The Housing and Health Manager further advised that the Council had been approached by a homeowner to act as a management agent, but the Council was unable to do this. However, it appeared there may be a letting agent willing to do this work.

The Chairman used his discretion to allow a member of the public to speak who was there on behalf of Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees. She advised that Savills in West Malling were the agents that may be interested in taking on this role.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Members considered the report and it was

Resolved: That the report to Cabinet be noted.

Item 8 - Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (VPRS) - Community Sponsorship Programme Resettlement Plan Assessment

The relevant Minute extract from the Housing & Health Advisory Committee on 20 June 2017 is now available.

Housing & Health Advisory Committee (20 June 2016, Minute 12)

The Head of Housing & Health presented the report which sought Cabinet approval for the proposed assessment form following the meeting of Cabinet on 15 October 2016, when it was resolved that Officers work on and implement a process to consider applications from potential Community Sponsors under the Government's Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (VPRS) Community Sponsorship Programme.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

