

Housing & Health Advisory Committee

22 March 2016

Portfolio Holders Report

The Portfolios three priorities for this year are:

- Completing and bedding in the Housing Strategy
- Completing and bedding in the leisure strategy
- Putting the District Public Health deal into practice

Housing

After the successful housing strategy workshops we now have a clear direction of travel (which will be presented to members of the H&HAC tonight for approval) and this will be launched at our Spring Forum. Once we have the results from our HMNA (Housing Market Needs Assessment) survey we will be able to combine the district's objectively assessed need with our members direction of travel to produce our new Housing Strategy that will be launched next year. It will also form part of the local plan. In addition the Housing stock condition survey is underway which will provide more housing intelligence.

There will not be a phase 3 of the joint Moat and SDC 'Home of your Own' scheme as Moat has had to re-evaluate its finances, staff resources and work programmes and can not commit to a phase-3.

Phase-1 was delivered through 2014/15 and the under spend was then transferred to phase-2 which has been delivered through 2015/16. We have now hit the cut-off period as all remaining completions have to take place before 31/03/16. We are likely to have 8 out of the planned 12 cases achieved by the year end. We would have likely transferred any underspend to a phase-3, as per the first year, but this has all now changed. This underspend will be returned to SDC and we are looking at other ways we can use the money to assist people onto the housing ladder.

If the government changes direction and allows councils to keep the s106 affordable housing contribution and we have a guaranteed source of funding there maybe the possibility of us delivering a similar scheme with a different partner.

Officers and cabinet members met with the two Sevenoaks MPs: Michael Fallon and Tom Tugendhat to update them on the housing strategy on Friday 15 January and updated Gary Johnson only has one ward in the District. We have been in constant correspondence with both MPs about our housing strategy and issues with the Housing & Planning Bill.

We will be hosting a Housing Forum in April to launch our new Housing Strategy and showcase our achievements such as HERO. It will focus on the King's Fund Report: *The district council contribution to public health: a time of challenge and opportunity* and how the district council is implementing the report starting with housing.

It is also Pat Smith's grand finale as our Chief Housing Officer and a chance for her colleagues across the county to say goodbye. DCLG Minister: Marcus Jones will be attending and Michael Fallon MP will be recording a message for it. All members have been invited. The event will be sponsored.

I attended the No Use Empty Conference at KKC on 2 December and will be looking at working with Roddy Hogarth to do more with empty homes from both an economic development point of view as well as a housing one.

I met with West Kent Housing on Friday 29th January to discuss their Emerald Homes strategy going forward. Also met with Toby Fox of 3 Fox International on 5 March to discuss possible dementia plans in Swanley. Will have to meet with 3 Fox International, West Kent HA, Swanley Town Council and the SDC Master plan to move ideas forward.

Health and Leisure

I attended the singing for mental health choir at County Hall on 9 December and can see the real benefits of singing and friendship for people with mental health issues.

We held the Leisure Strategy Workshop on 18 January which was Chaired and led by Cllr Mike Horwood who leads on Leisure.

I attended the Transforming Leisure and Cultural Services – From Subsidy to Surplus conference on 23 February with Lesley Bowles to gain ideas for how we can improve our leisure facilities.

Cllr Faye Parkin chaired a dementia conference on 24 February as the council's lead member on older people. This was a well attended event and provided much needed information and a market place environment of solicitors providing services regarding Powers of Attorney, financial and wellbeing advice.

We have submitted the SDC District Health Deal bid to Andrew Scott Clark (Public Health at KCC) focussed on how we can work in partnership with them, the CCGs and Health and Wellbeing Board to keep the district health with a particular focus on our three health objectives:

- Tackling the rise of obesity
- Mental health support including tackling dementia
- Ageing well and tackling prevention of dementia development

This is currently on hold as KCC have frozen all their commissioning but we are hopeful of a positive response from the county in the future.

Margot McArthur is our new Mental Health Champion.

I met with KCC Portfolio Holder, Gary Cooke and Rebecca Spore, Head of Property at KCC; Jane Parish from Sencio, Pat Bosley, Lesley Bowles and our legal department on to try and find a solution to the problems at the Wildernesse Sports Centre. We will decide our future and then go back to sort out all the other outstanding issues. We met again in February to consider the future of the site and to tour it.

Dementia update

- Dementia friendly training for all front line staff including Dunbrik
- Dementia friendly training for taxi drivers with stickers showing they are dementia friends
- Shop safe scheme launched for people living with dementia
- Community Safety Partnership works closely with social care and refer people for care packages