

SELECT SERVICES COMMITTEE – APRIL 2012.

The meeting of the above committee dealt with the following items:-

1. Some minor changes were made to the work plan.
2. Sub-Committee dealing “In Depth Scrutiny of Under Occupation in Social Housing”.
A panel of six expert speakers assembled and answered a wide range of questions put to them by members of the committee. Those questions on the preplanned list not answered verbally would be dealt with in writing and circulated to members.
The Housing Policy Manager was present and having collated the answers would prepare an action plan for the sub-committee to review and submit to the full committee at their June meeting. Once agreed it would be forwarded to the Cabinet.
3. Sub –Committee – Universal Credit in Depth Scrutiny. The Group Manager Financial Services gave a report, followed by the Vice Chairman of the Working Group. His Power Point presentation identified the complexities of both current and future systems. At a sub group meeting, one of several, the Benefits Manager had given a presentation which was taken away by the representative of the DWP as an example of good practice and forward thinking. ”Sevenoaks ahead of the game”. As the DWP has not finalised much of the fine detail, the risk of not meeting the timetable – initial implementation April 2013 – must be increasing. The sub group together with the relevant officers, will be watching the situation closely.

The Chairman thanked the Vice Chairman of the Sub Committee for a most informative and excellent presentation, and confirmed that the main committee would look forward to further updates.

R.J.Davison
Committee Chairman.