

Minutes of a meeting of **Cabinet** held by video link on **Tuesday 3 November 2020** at **6.00pm** when there were present:

Cllr S A Vincent – Policy (Chairman)

Portfolio holders:

Cllr J K Copplestone	Economic Development
Cllr J J Emsell	Transformation and Organisational Development
Cllr L H Hempsall	Planning
Cllr J Leggett	Environmental Excellence
Cllr T M Mancini-Boyle	Finance
Cllr F Whymark	Housing and Wellbeing

Cllr T Adams, Cllr K Kelly, Cllr K Leggett and Cllr S Riley also attended the meeting.

Also in attendance were the Managing Director, Director Place, Director Resources, Director People and Communities, Chief of Staff, Assistant Director Economic Growth, Assistant Director Regulatory, Assistant Director Finance, Assistant Director Governance and Business Support (Monitoring Officer), Assistant Director Individuals and Families, Governance Manager, Communities Senior Manager, Business Improvement Team Manager, Housing and Wellbeing Senior Manager, Policy and Partnerships Officer and the Democratic Services Officer (JO).

146 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE NO 8

Member	Minute No & Heading	Nature of Interest
Cllr J Copplestone, Cllr J Leggett, Cllr S Riley	159 – Housing Standards Enforcement Policy	Pecuniary Interest, owner of a rental property.

147 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

148 MATTERS ARISING

Minute No: 137 – Updated Delivery Plan Post Covid-19

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development advised the meeting that

Broadland had been allocated £428,000 from the Norfolk Strategic Fund and would spend this funding on enterprise facilitation.

Minute No: 138 – Response to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Consultations.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning informed Members that the Council's response to the 'Planning for the Future' White Paper had been signed off; she would circulate the response to Members following the meeting.

149 REPRESENTATIONS FROM NON CABINET MEMBERS

The Chairman agreed that, at his discretion, all non-Cabinet Members in attendance be allowed to join the debate at the relevant point of the proceedings on request.

150 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised Members on the views expressed by the Committee when it reviewed the Cabinet Agenda on 27 October 2020, as each item was considered.

151 SERVICE IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

Cabinet received the Minutes of the meeting of the Service Improvement and Efficiency Committee held on 5 October 2020

152 WELLBEING PANEL

Cabinet received the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellbeing Panel held on 7 October 2020.

153 ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE PANEL

Cabinet received the Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Excellence Panel held on 8 October 2020. The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence informed the meeting that Members of the Panel had recently viewed a trial of an electric refuse collection vehicle; unfortunately it had not been able to complete two rounds on one charge.

A Norfolk Waste Partnership meeting was to be convened shortly and it was hoped that some good communications on recycling and reducing waste would result from it.

RESOLVED

To bring the Recycling Behaviour Change project to a close, as recommended by the Environmental Excellence Panel at its meeting on 8 October 2020.

154 ECONOMIC SUCCESS PANEL

Cabinet received the Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Success Panel held on 12 October 2020.

155 BUDGET UPDATE REPORT

The Assistant Director Finance introduced the report, which provided an additional update on the budgetary position at the Council, which was considered appropriate due to the exceptional circumstance caused by the pandemic.

As part of the response to COVID-19 and the New Ways of Working programme, staff had now been categorised as either: a permanent home worker (80 staff), a home enabled worker (396 staff working both at home and in the office) and 70 dedicated office workers. However, at present only 327 officers had laptops.

This left 219 laptops short and, therefore, to complete a roll out of laptops plus peripherals a further £256,000 (including 20% contingency) split BDC 45%, SNC 55% was required.

Member approval was, therefore, requested to increase the BDC 2020/21 Information Technology Capital Budget by £115,000 to fund the rollout of additional laptops to better facilitate the New Ways of Working.

Cabinet noted that this matter had caused a lot of debate at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Portfolio Holder for Finance confirmed that she fully supported increasing the IT budget to ensure that officers had the tools to do their jobs.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee informed the meeting that the Committee had recommended that this budget be increased to cover providing laptops to Members to help them do their job as well. He also noted that Members' iPads would need to be replaced in a few years and that this would be a relatively inexpensive way to allow them to access the greater functionality available in laptop computers.

In response, the Leader noted that iPads offered a safe and secure platform

that had served Members well. Although he acknowledged that the pandemic had brought its own problems for Members.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance noted that the Director of Resources was looking into Members' IT and suggested a separate additional budget of £35,000 be established to fund potential changes following a review of Members' IT.

The Assistant Director Business Support and Governance (Monitoring Officer) confirmed that a cross party Working Group would be established to scope out what Member IT requirements were. The Leader noted that this group might also include Members from South Norfolk as well.

However, the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was of the opinion that Members just needed to be supplied with laptops, rather than establishing a Working Group to look into it.

The meeting was advised that South Norfolk had decided to postpone a decision on increasing their Revenue Budget by £44,000 to implement the actions set out in the Environmental Strategy, in order to focus on their response to COVID-19.

However, Cabinet supported the recommendation and were advised that a graduate apprentice was in place and scoping out the foundational work for the person who would take up this post.

It was agreed that the unspent 'joint waste budget' would be used to cover waste procurement. The reference to depot would be deleted from this recommendation.

The £45,000 increase in the budgetary provision to cover additional regulatory expenditure was supported. The reduction in the budgetary provision for COVID-19 direct hardship payment of £77,000 and the return of the money to the Council Tax Support Hardship Allocation was also supported. It was noted that this sum could be returned for direct hardship payments, if needed.

The proposed changes in the income budgets was supported. Also supported were the proposals to authorise the Assistant Director Regulatory to spend the Coronavirus Enforcement Grant; the removal of the Assistant Director Consultancy post from the establishment and to note the updated Medium Term Financial Strategy.

In response to a query, the Assistant Director Regulatory confirmed that he would bring an operational report back to Cabinet to keep Members informed about how the £49,421 Coronavirus Enforcement Grant was being spent.

It was noted that the final proposal for approval of the criteria for local lockdown grants had been overtaken by events and it was suggested that it be expanded to include consultation with the Portfolio Holder Finance and the Leader, as well as Assistant Director Economic Growth. Reference to 'discretionary' lockdown grants was also removed from the recommendation.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development also advised the meeting that the Council would receive £2.6m rolled out over 18 months to provide local lockdown grants.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (1) To increase the BDC 20/21 Information Technology Capital Budget by £115,000, to fund the rollout of additional laptops to better facilitate the New Ways of Working.
- (2) To increase the BDC 20/21 Information Technology Capital Budget by £35,000 to fund potential changes following a review of Members' IT.
- (3) To increase the BDC annual Revenue Budget by £44,000 (with a pro-rata adjustment for 20/21 as only a part year effect) to fund an additional resource to help implement the actions set out in the recently agreed Environmental Strategy.
- (4) To agree that the unspent 'joint waste budget' can be applied to cover the costs of the waste procurement.
- (5) To increase the budgetary provision for Covid-19 expenditure from £250,000 to £295,000 to cover the additional £45,000 regulatory expenditure.
- (6) To reduce the budgetary provision for Covid-19 direct hardship payments by £77,000 and return the money to the main Council Tax Support hardship allocation.
- (7) To agree the proposed changes to the 20/21 income budgets as set out in paragraph 4.17.
- (8) To agree that the Assistant Director Regulatory is authorised to spend the new Coronavirus Enforcement grant of £49,421, to help the public and businesses understand the latest Covid-19 regulation, and increase compliance work and enforcement checks on businesses.
- (9) To remove the post of Assistant Director Consultancy Team from the establishment.

RESOLVED

To note:

- (10) The updated Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- (11) That the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance, the Leader and the Assistant Director Economic Growth will be asked to approve the criteria for the distribution of local lockdown grants, in line with Part 3 of the Constitution Para 16.5 (1) Delegation of powers to Portfolio Holders, and Para 19.18 (22) Oversight of the Council's Grants Policy.

Reasons for decision

The report was a factual account.

156 REVIEW OF EARMARKED RESERVES

The Assistant Director Finance introduced the report, which reviewed the Council's earmarked reserves and proposed that three reserves be closed, two merged and the two reserves created.

Earmarked Reserves were amounts that had been set aside to provide financing for specific future events. The Council's Earmarked Reserves as at 31 March 2020, were £8.733m.

The proposed changes were:

- (1) The closure of the following reserves:
 - a. External Funding Reserve.
 - b. Community Right to Challenge Reserve.
 - c. Systems Thinking Reserve.
- (2) The reduction in the Business Rates Reserve by £703,000.
- (3) The merging of the Economic Success Fund and the Broadland Growth Reserve.
- (4) The creation of the following Reserves:
 - a. Refuse Services - £7m.
 - b. New Ways of Working - £4m.

The proposed changes would result in the earmarked reserves being increased to £18.692m. This would reduce the General Fund to £5.387m, which was still significantly above the minimum recommended level of £2m.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance confirmed that she had no objection to closing the three reserves. But would not want to reduce the Business Rates reserve by £703,000. Neither would she recommend merging the Economic Success Fund and the Broadland Growth Reserve.

Some concern was also expressed about creating the two new reserves and in response to a query, Cabinet were assured that any spending would be undertaken through the normal scheme of delegation, as set out in the Constitution. The Director of Resources also confirmed that money was not spent directly from reserves and would go into either the Revenue or Capital programme to be agreed by Cabinet.

However, it was agreed that further clarification was needed before reserves were set aside for Refuse Services and New Ways of Working. It was also requested that the split between the Marriott's Way bridges and the Bure Valley Railway bridges in the Bridge Maintenance Reserve be explained and brought back to the next meeting.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (1) The closure of the following reserves:
 - a. External Funding Reserve.
 - b. Community Right to Challenge Reserve.
 - c. Systems Thinking Reserve.
- (2) The retention of the Economic Success Fund and the Broadland Growth Reserve.
- (3) To defer a decision on the creation of the following Reserves:
 - a. Refuse Services - £7m.
 - b. New Ways of Working - £4m

Reasons for decision

To review the Council's earmarked reserves.

157 TREASURY MANAGEMENT QUARTER 2 REPORT 2020/21

The Assistant Director Finance introduced the report, which reviewed treasury management activity during the first six months of the financial year 2020/21.

As at 30 September 2020 the Council's investments totalled £43,770m. Around £400,000 investment income was forecast at year end, which was £160,000 above budget. The Council had not needed to borrow during this period.

The Council had exceeded its counterparty limit for Barclays PLC, by £2.5m, due to a requirement to keep funds short to make money available for relief to residents and businesses during the pandemic.

The Chairman noted that the Council made some investments on behalf of charitable organisations and requested that he be provided with further information about the organisations after the meeting, as he understood they were located in his Ward.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

To

- (1) Note the report on treasury activity undertaken in the first half of the year and that it complies with the agreed strategy; and
- (2) Note the 2020/21 prudential indicators for the first six months of the year.

Reasons for decision

The report was a factual account.

158 STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE REPORT FOR QUARTERS 1 AND 2 2020/21

The Chief of Staff introduced the report, which was the first iteration of the new format Strategic Performance and Finance Report for Quarters 1 and 2.

The report provided an overview of the performance of the Council against key outcomes set out in the Delivery Plan for 2020/21.

In the Delivery Plan for 2020/21 not all delivery measures had been given targets. Where targets were provided a red, amber, green (RAG) status had been used to provide an update on progress. The majority of those measured under the RAG system were either baselined this year or had year-end targets which would be updated to Members as part of the Quarter four reports. For those with targets, seven measures were on target and green and four were currently red this Quarter.

Highlights in the report were:

- Over £5m of external funding was secured during Q1 and Q2. £2.7m through Government's 'Getting Building Fund' to support the delivery of the Food Innovation Centre. £521,976 has been secured from MHCLG to deliver the 'Next Steps Accommodation' programme and £428,572 has been secured from the Norfolk Strategic Fund to support with COVID-19 economic recovery initiatives.
- Supporting vulnerable residents was a focus area for Q1 and Q2 with 2,160 residents receiving support from the discretionary prevention services since April this year.
- The amount of collected waste being recycled had increased by 3 percent to 52.5 percent, which significantly outperformed the national recycling average of 44 percent.

Areas where improvements could be made were:

- The number of missed bins, (40 bins per 100,000) which was higher than the year-end target of no more than 30 bins per 100,000. This had been partly attributed to staff sickness.
- Homelessness prevention measures, which suffered a drop in performance due to a doubling of people being housed in temporary accommodation and the resultant impact on resources. It was highlighted that a programme of work named 'best in class housing' was currently being progressed to ensure the Council provided the best housing services for residents

The Quarter 3 report would also cover Strategic Risk. The draft Strategic Risk Register had been taken to the Audit Committee and was being developed further following the Committee's feedback before final review in November.

The Assistant Director for Finance drew Members' attention to the favourable variance in the budget of £2.1m, which had chiefly be due to receiving COVID-19 Government funding that had not been budgeted for. At the end of September this amount totalled £1.3m. It was emphasised that this would be spent on supporting residents and businesses by the end of the financial year.

In respect of the Capital Programme at the end of Quarter 2, the Council would have expected to have spent £1.2m, but in fact had spent £0.5m. However, there remained the opportunity to catch up with this spend by the end of the financial year.

The Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Organisational Development noted that 2020 had been a very difficult year for everyone and commended staff for their performance in rising to the challenge of delivering services to residents and businesses.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance noted an error in the figure for variance in the income budgets in the report, but acknowledged that this was probably due to rounding up. The Assistant Director for Finance confirmed it would be amended.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance also noted that the processing of new Housing Benefit claims had a target of seven days and that this had reached 5.4 days, due to the huge increase in claims caused by the pandemic, but that this figure had now come back down to the pre-COVID-19 figure of 4.7 days and that staff were to be congratulated for their hard work in achieving this.

In respect of Council Tax collection, the Portfolio Holder for Finance confirmed that although the Council could now take legal action against residents in arrears, it would be putting this off until the New Year to give them more time given the current situation.

The Leader noted that the Council Tax debt was currently £650,000, but that this was out of a total of £87m collected, which put it in perspective and that as much should be done as possible to encourage residents in arrears to engage with the Council.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing commended the work of the Housing Team, which had faced unprecedented levels of demand and also the Communities Team who had worked very hard to support residents. He also drew Members' attention to the £521,976 funding secured from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government to deliver the Next Steps Accommodation programme, which would provide even more support for the Districts most vulnerable residents.

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence congratulated staff in the Regulatory Team and the Environmental Health Officers for their hard work during the pandemic.

In respect of the performance measures she noted that too much was being made of the drop in performance for missed bins; from 27 per 100,000 in Quarter 1 to 40 per 100,000 in Quarter 2, as this figure was still good considering the number of bins collected.

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence was also pleased to see a measure for the KGs of residual waste collected per household included in the report for the first time.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development thanked the Economic Development Team and the Finance Team for their hard work in distributing nearly £29m in support grants to 2,5000 businesses in the District. She noted that Business Rate relief had also been given to businesses affected by the pandemic and new local business support would be rolled out soon due to the second lockdown. She also noted that £2.7m had been secured to help fund the Food Innovation Centre, which would be delivered in partnership with the Local Enterprise Partnership, as well as the £428,572 secured from the Norfolk Strategic Fund, which would support enterprise facilitation initiatives. The Communities Team were also congratulated on their work with the Kick Start scheme, which would help young people into jobs.

The Leader noted that the pie chart in the dashboard overview section of the report was not particularly informative and a few other elements in the report needed further work and he suggested that an informal session with officers and Cabinet might be a good way to iron out these issues.

In response to a query regarding the refurbishment of Thorpe Lodge, the Leader confirmed that this was on hold, as options would need to be looked at to meet the new needs for accommodation once the pandemic was over.

The Assistant Director for Governance and Business Support (Monitoring Officer) confirmed that the current focus had been on creating a safe COVID-19 secure office environment for staff. The work on hold was for the air conditioning system, the toilets and the showers.

RESOLVED

To

- (1) Note the revenue and capital position; and
- (2) Note the 2020/21 performance for Q1 and Q2.

Reasons for decision

The report was a factual account.

159 APPROVAL OF UK MUNICIPAL BOND AGENCY'S FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The Director of Resources introduced the report, which sought approval for the Council to enter into a Framework Agreement with the UK Municipal Bonds Agency, which would be a potential source of borrowing for the Council, if required. This would represent an even cheaper source of borrowing than the Public Works and Loans Board.

The Council was required to sign up to the Framework prior to borrowing and Cabinet was advised that loans provided by the Agency were pooled and guaranteed by the borrowers. However, to date no UK local authority had ever defaulted on a loan.

It was confirmed that signing up to the Framework did not commit the Council to only borrowing from the Municipal Bonds Agency.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

to approve the Council's entry into a Framework Agreement and its accompanying schedules.

Reasons for decision

To provide the Council with access to an additional loan facility.

160 THE VISION FOR A BEST IN CLASS HOUSING OFFER AND DRAFT ALLOCATIONS SCHEME

The Assistant Director for Individuals and Families introduced the report. He noted that housing was a core function of a local authority and that the proposals in the report represented a significant opportunity to establish a best in class housing model for residents across Broadland and South Norfolk, by working together to build efficiencies and economies of scale through a single officer team. The project had been assisted by the Local Government Association, who had funded external consultants and by the Joint Member Working Group, who had carried out a significant amount of work with officers to bring the housing offer forward.

The Policy and Partnerships Officer presented some more detailed aspects of the report, which had been drawn up following a number of workshops and considerable work to develop an efficient and consistent working approach. The review had been undertaken before and during the pandemic, which had created an opportunity to be mindful of the likely demand on the service from the crisis.

Following a successful bid to the LGA Housing Advisor programme, officers had been working in conjunction with external consultants Campbell Tickell and had developed a 'best in class housing offer'. A fundamental part of the offer was the proposed allocations scheme and a four-stage accommodation model, which sought to provide a universal service open to all with a housing need.

Key to the service was the proposed Allocations Scheme, which defined the procedures to be followed in allocating housing accommodation to ensure the

Council provided the most effective housing service through an up-to-date and legally compliant scheme.

It was proposed that the current banding system be changed from three bands to four to allow for a band to accommodate those in most urgent need.

Over the proposed four bands there was likely to be approximately 1000 people registered for accommodation. Whilst those in high bands were more likely to be allocated a property, difficult to let properties and S106 restrictions on the allocation of properties offered to those with a local connection would help to secure offers to those in lower bands. A willingness to move outside a specific area was also an option to help increase the likelihood of securing a property.

The new combined system would provide residents with a single point of access to bid for properties across both Councils with properties being allocated to those residing within the District where the property was located in the first instance, but ultimately offered to a bidder in the other District if the property was not taken, thereby helping to reduce the incidence of empty properties and facilitating mobility. The bidding process would be explicit about priority being given to the allocation of properties to bidders within the same District as the property.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing commended the report and the collaborative work undertaken to develop the proposed Allocations Scheme, which if adopted would be a significantly improved, transparent and proactive means of prioritising Broadland's most vulnerable residents.

In answer to a query, it was confirmed that the proposals in the scheme, emphasised partnership working with housing associations and other landlords to prevent houses being unoccupied longer than necessary.

Cabinet commended the proposals in the report and it was:

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

- (1) To endorse Officers work towards the Best in Class Housing Offer; and
- (2) Agree to the adoption of the Housing Allocations Scheme.

Reasons for decision

To initiate the development of a best in class housing service.

161 HOUSING STANDARDS ENFORCEMENT POLICY

The Assistant Director for Individuals and Families introduced the report, which proposed the adoption of a revised Housing Standards Enforcement Policy.

He explained that the new Policy would ensure that all statutory obligations and procedures that Housing Standard Officers initiated on behalf of the Council were up-to-date and in a single document. This would allow the Council to support landlords, but also set a clear bar for the standards of housing that they were expected to provide.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that the Council would be more proactive in education regarding housing standards and that work with the Eastern Landlords Association was planned for 2020/21.

RESOLVED

To approve the Council's new Housing Standards Enforcement Policy.

Reasons for decision

To adopt a revised and improved policy.

162 PLANNING ENFORCEMENT PLAN AND STRATEGY

The Business Improvement Team Manager introduced the report, which presented an updated Enforcement Plan and Strategy, following an audit of the Planning Enforcement Service in early 2020.

He advised the meeting that the report had been considered and recommended for approval by the Place Shaping Panel, subject to the inclusion of headings for the legislative tools that were available to the Council (pre formal, formal and compliance) and to also include a flowchart to outline the enforcement process. The Panel had also asked that enforcement training be provided for parish and town councils. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had also welcomed and endorsed these suggestions.

The Plan would now include a more proactive approach towards the monitoring of the commencement of developments with planning permission to ensure compliance with associated conditions.

To ensure that Members had an overview of current cases it was also proposed that a monthly report be provided to all Members, which would

highlight work being undertaken.

Training would also be provided to allow Members to make best use of this information.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning commended the report and recommended it for approval.

RESOLVED

- (1) To agree the use of the Enforcement Plan for the Planning Enforcement Service at Broadland Council; and
- (2) To agree the use of the Enforcement Strategy for the Planning Enforcement Service at Broadland Council, subject to the inclusion of the headings and flowchart, as suggested by the Place Shaping Panel, as well as offering enforcement training to parish and town councils.

Reasons for decision

To adopt a revised Enforcement Plan and Strategy.

163 FUTURE OF COMMUNITY GRANTS

The Communities Senior Manager introduced the report, which reviewed the Member Grant Scheme and Community funding sources and put forward proposals for consideration.

It was proposed that the Member Grant Scheme would open at the beginning of the financial year, with £500 ring-fenced for each Member until January 31. Between 1 February and 1 March any remaining budget that had not been spent would be offered out to all Members on a first come, first served basis. This would allow Members to access funding for areas of high demand from areas where demand was lower.

An online form could be made available to the public which would enable them to share information about their project and why they would like the Member to consider allocating funds to them. This would also allow the community group to provide information such as their bank details, reducing the potential for duplication or error in the current system.

More emphasis would be placed on the naming and branding of the scheme to support its promotion.

Another proposal was to introduce start-up grants to kick start worthwhile

community activity. Grants of up to £300 could be offered to informal groups (of 3 or more people) who were proposing a community project. This would be funded from the Community at Heart Lottery.

It was also proposed that by working closely with the Planning and Economic Development Teams, there was an opportunity to create a whole Council approach to funding, by linking together Community Grants, Community Lottery and CIL to provide the appropriate funding stream and support for local infrastructure projects.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development noted the hard work that had been put into the project, which had also been considered by the Economic Success Panel, but she proposed that the Member-led grant scheme should remain unchanged, as it was fair and equitable for all Members to receive a pot of £500. It was also not proposed to have formalised branding for the scheme, as it was for a relatively small amount. However, the proposal for Start-Up Grants linked to the Community at Heart Lottery was welcomed.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised the meeting that the Committee had recommended increasing Member Ward Grants to £1,000, the same sum that South Norfolk Council Members received and had also recommended that Community Action Grants be introduced in Broadland as well. The Committee had also supported greater accessibility in the application process and improved branding of the scheme.

The Leader noted a preference for a simple scheme to deliver community projects at a Ward Member level and Members concurred with this view.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the member-led ward grant system would remain unchanged for 2021/22; and
- (2) To introduce a start-up grant; linked to the new Community at Heart Lottery.

Reasons for decision

To support local community projects in the District.

164 TEMPORARY CHANGE TO HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY – UPDATE

The Housing and Wellbeing Senior Manager introduced his report, which requested a three month extension to the temporary amendment to the criteria within the Council's Housing Policy, which had been agreed in June 2020. This would allow officers discretion to place eligible, and suitable,

individuals currently living in supported accommodation within the 'High' category for allocation.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing informed Members that the amendment to policy had been very successful for residents and he suggested an amendment to the recommendation to lengthen the extension to 31 March 2021.

RESOLVED

To agree an extension to the temporary amendment to the criteria within the Council's Housing Policy, agreed in June 2020, for three months, to allow officers discretion to place eligible, and suitable, individuals currently living in supported accommodation within the 'High' category for allocation. This extension will cease on the 31 March 2021 subject to further review by Cabinet if still required.

Reasons for decision

To reduce pressure on temporary accommodation in the District.

165 EXEMPT MINUTES

The exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

166 ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE PANEL

The Exempt Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Excellence Panel held on 8 October 2020, were noted.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm