

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CABINET ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES of the meeting held at the Committee Rooms A and B, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS, at 6.30 pm on Wednesday, 2 March 2022

**Present: Councillor David Scott (Chairman)
Councillors Fairweather (Vice-Chairman), March, Ms Palmer, Ellis, Rutland, Hill, Pope
and Patterson**

Officers in Attendance: Gary Stevenson (Head of Housing, Health and Environment), Sue Oliver (Private Sector Housing Manager) and Emer Moran (Democratic Services Officer)

Other Members in Attendance: None.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

COM54/21 Apologies were received from Councillors Allen and Rands.

Councillor Scott confirmed that there was a change to the Membership of this Cabinet Advisory Board. As agreed at Full Council Wednesday 23 February 2022 Councillor Rands was a Member of this Committee.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

COM55/21 Councillor March declared that a homeless person lived in one of her properties and the rent and deposit bond was paid by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. Councillor March therefore left the meeting at the time of agenda item COM14/21 was discussed, as advised by Legal.

Councillor Scott declared that he ran, in conjunction with Aspens Charity, housing for up to ten individuals with learning difficulties. The funds were received from Aspens Charity and as the individuals were not homeless it did not affect his presence at the Committee.

NOTIFICATION OF PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

COM56/21 There were no members of the public of visiting Members registered to speak.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED 17 NOVEMBER 2021

COM57/21 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting dated 17 November 2021 be deferred to the next meeting on Wednesday 30 March 2022.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED 11 JANUARY 2022

COM58/21 No amendments were proposed.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting dated 11 January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

WORK PROGRAMME AS AT 14 FEBRUARY 2022

COM59/21 Councillor Jane March stated that under her portfolio there should also be

Environment, Culture and Leisure.

RESOLVED – That subject to the above amendment, that the Forward Plan as at 14 February 2022 be noted.

HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2021 - 2026

COM60/21 Sue Oliver, Private Sector Housing Manager presented her report which outlined the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2021 – 2026.

Speakers: None.

Discussion and questions from Members included the following:

- The Housing Advisory Panel (HAP) had accepted the report with a recommendation that it was accepted with no changes by the Communities and Economic Cabinet Advisory Board.
- HAP would review the Strategy and action plans every 6 months, to ensure priorities remained in the right direction and reflected local and national priorities.
- It was advised that there was no indication that the funds from Kent County Council (KCC) Homelessness Connect Service would be withdrawn, the amount of approximately £250,000 funded 27-29 beds within Tunbridge Wells (TW) for residents of TW and neighbouring boroughs.
- The responses to the consultation were generally positive.
- The matter of whether people are placed outside of the borough was reviewed carefully and depended on location, cost and available spaces.
- Notwithstanding the good standard of practises already in place, the financial support from the Government during the pandemic gave Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC) more capacity and flexibility to reach those in need of services.
- Congratulations was given to the team for how they supported and managed people in the community.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, Appendix A be adopted by Cabinet.

URGENT BUSINESS

COM61/21 There was no urgent business for consideration.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

COM62/21 The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 30 March 2022.

NOTES:

The meeting concluded at 7.00 pm.