

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CABINET ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES of the meeting held at the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1RS, at 6.30 pm on Wednesday, 12 October 2022

Present:

Councillors Ellis, Fairweather, Hill, March, Neville, Ms Palmer and White

Officers in Attendance: Stuart Clifton (Housing Services Manager), Claudette Valmond (Head of Legal Partnership and Interim Monitoring Officer) and Emer Moran (Democratic Services Officer)

Other Members in Attendance: Councillors Chapelard and Pound.

PRESIDING MEMBER

COM10/22 In the absence of the Chairman, and without an appointed Vice-Chairman, the committee elected a member to preside.

Councillor Palmer moved, and Councillor Hill seconded, that Councillor Fairweather be appointed to preside at the meeting.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Fairweather be appointed to preside at the meeting.

Councillor Fairweather took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

COM11/22 Apologies were received from Councillors, Everitt, Fitzsimmon, Funnell and Pope.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

COM12/22 There were no declarations of interest.

NOTIFICATION OF PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK

COM13/22 There were no members of the public or visiting Members of the Council registered to speak.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING DATED 7 SEPTEMBER 2022

COM14/22 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting dated Wednesday 7 September 2022 be recorded as a true record.

FORWARD PLAN AS AT 27 SEPTEMBER 2022

COM15/22 **RESOLVED:** That the Forward Plan as at Tuesday 27 September 2022, be noted.

REVIEW OF ALLOCATIONS SCHEME 2022

COM16/22 Councillor Hugo Pound, Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning gave an

overview of the scheme and introduced Stuart Clifton, Housing Services Manager who presented the report as per the agenda.

Discussion and questions from Members and Officer clarification included:

- i. Within the Allocation Scheme there was qualifying criteria for local connection and it was confirmed that the proposed changes to the allocation scheme tightened those requirements, and still allowed for exemptions which included those required by statute, members of armed forces and extended to care leavers.
- ii. It was confirmed that some properties had no local connection criteria set and were available for all applicants to bid on. However, some properties and developments secured under Section 106 Agreements had, as part of a condition that those properties were allocated to people with a local connection to the parish area before opened up to the wider Borough.
- iii. An explanation of Transfer Tenants, Tenants that mutually exchange and how those tied into local connection was given.
- iv. It was confirmed that the financial assessment criteria in section 6.2 was within the existing scheme that had been in operation since 2013. What was proposed through the public consultation was to seek feedback specifically around those financial limits and whether they should be amended and what they should be.
- v. Thanks were given to Stuart for the work he had done.
- vi. The work of the Communities and Economic Cabinet Advisory Board and the Housing Advisory Panel which was a cross party team was recognised and the recommended changes they had seen on the local connection criteria and the financial assessment criteria that it would go to public response and consultation and the stakeholders input.

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations to Cabinet as set out in the report be supported.

URGENT BUSINESS

COM17/22 There was no urgent business for consideration.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

COM18/22 The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 9 November 2022.

NOTES:

The meeting concluded at 6.59 pm.