

Report of Corporate Director for People

to

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Committee

on

28th January 2016

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Review of Sheltered Housing – Brief overview

**Executive Councillor: Councillor Norman MBE
Part 1(Public Agenda Item)**

1. Purpose of Report

The Chairman has asked for this item to be put on the agenda pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 35.1(d). This report has been prepared with the agreement of the Chief Executive to provide some background information.

2. Recommendation

To note this report.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 19 January 2015 the Cabinet received a report on the Council's Draft Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2018/19. This report made reference to the intention to review the sheltered housing provision in the borough in 2015/16.

Whilst any decision on recommendations from such a review will go before the Cabinet the position has been taken that the Housing Working Party, given its terms of reference below, should oversee the review of sheltered housing provision and the associated issue of housing needs for older people.

- 3.2 The terms of reference of the Housing Working Party (HWP) are as follows:

- To advise the Cabinet on Strategic Housing Policy issues relating to the provision and improvement of affordable and social housing in the Borough.
- To review progress on the future management of the council's housing stock, following the report of the ALMO Task & Finish Group and the decision of Cabinet on 5 November 2013; including reviewing progress on the level of savings / efficiencies to be achieved and the performance of south Essex Homes.

3.3 Preparation and Terms of Reference for the Review

The Housing Working Party has considered the development of a review of sheltered housing on three occasions:

HWP Tuesday 21 April 2015 – Established the approach to the review of sheltered housing as a key project and that the HWP will oversee the review. Procurement of external specialist input to support the review referred to by officers. Members sought details of the costs to be provided as soon as possible.

HWP Tuesday 30 June 2015 – Proposals set out in the report in Paragraph 5 (Scope of the Review) to form the basis of the project to review Sheltered Housing.

HWP Wednesday 16 September 2015 – Verbal report received on current position of the review. Officers advised external support was being sought but the costs of which were not known at the time and would be subject to procurement.

3.4 Independent Specialist support in connection with the Review

In November 2015 Peter Fletcher Associates (PFA) were commissioned to provide specialist independent support to the review at a cost of £30k with named specialists Denise Gillie and Malcolm Gara undertaking the work. The support was commissioned on Director's authority on consideration of this nature of input not being already available as an in-house resource. Normal procurement processes were duly followed. PFA are working to the following terms of reference:

- review the “bricks and mortar” of our existing sheltered housing stock to determine fitness for purpose against current best practice and housing standards
- review the care and support aspects of the sheltered housing offer and explore to what degree these can assist with reducing the number of admissions to hospital and residential care settings, reducing the number of intensive domiciliary care packages in the community, and enabling compliance with Care Act requirements – specifically the “prevent, reduce, delay” agenda and wellbeing agenda.
- help develop options for potential changes that could be made to our current approach, policies, and provision and to design hypotheses/scope alternative models and a framework for testing these out

The full suite of procurement documentation including costs was subsequently shared with a number of Members at their request.

PFA are currently working with Officers across Strategic Housing and Adult Social Care Services, and senior managers in South Essex Homes, on the initial phase of data collation. This will enable a detailed consideration of all aspects of the housing, care and support needs of older people and evaluation

of the service provision, including housing stock that is currently available in Southend.

3.5 The Next Steps

The programme for the work on the review is timed to take place between November 2015 and April 2016.

The next meeting of the HWP is scheduled for **1 March 2016** at which the review will be an agenda item and Peter Fletcher Associates will attend with Officers to present an update on work to date and proposed next steps.

When the report is finished it will be considered by the HWP, before going on to Cabinet and the P&R Scrutiny Committee (if called-in).