

## Housing Working Party

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Housing Working Party** held in the **Warren Room, Lewes House, High Street, Lewes** on **Wednesday, 18 April 2018** at 2.00pm

**Present:**

Councillor R Maskell (Chair)

Councillors S Davy, J Denis, R O’Keeffe, S Saunders (Minutes 1 – 6) and R Turner

**Officers Present:**

A Chequers, Head of Homes First

Z Downton, Committee Officer

Leighton Rowe, HEDP Development Project Manager

**Also Present:**

John Langley, Tenants’ Representative, Tenants of Lewes District (Vice-Chair)

Debbie Twitchen, Tenants’ Representative, Tenants of Lewes District (Chair)

**In attendance:**

One member of the public

### Minutes

### Action

**1 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**2 Apology for Absence**

An apology for absence had been received from Councillor M Chartier.

**3 Terms of Reference**

The Committee considered a report which proposed a revised remit for the Housing Working Party. The updates reflected the informal expansion of the Working Party’s remit over the past ten years to include wider housing issues, and took into account new wide-ranging legislation that required a change in the way the Council worked and its continued, changing and varied priorities in terms of housing.

The following points were clarified by the Head of Homes First:

- The Working Party was a public meeting.
- The number of representatives from the Tenants of Lewes District (TOLD) group invited to meetings would remain at two, and the remit amended accordingly.

Resolved:

1. That the revised remit for the Housing Working Party, as amended above, be agreed;

Reason:

To enable the Cabinet to consider strategic proposals for the provision of affordable housing.

#### **4 New Developments**

The Committee received a presentation by the Head of Homes First in respect of the Council's Housing Development Programme 2017 - 2022. The presentation provided a brief overview of aspects such as the strategic objectives of the programme, the companies through which new developments would be delivered, and photographs of completed new developments. A handout of the presentation was tabled at the meeting and a copy of which is contained in the Minute Book.

Resolved:

1. That the content of the presentation be noted.

Reason:

To update members of the Housing Working Party.

#### **5 Properties in the Development Pipeline**

The Committee received a presentation by the HEDP Development Project Manager in respect of projects in the housing development pipeline across the Lewes District. The presentation set out the approved housing development sites (excluding larger sites such as the North Street Quarter project in Lewes), sites to be developed for affordable housing, housing being delivered with partner organisations, and affordable housing secured through planning requirements. A handout of the presentation was tabled at the meeting and a copy of which is contained in the Minute Book.

Resolved:

1. That the content of the presentation be noted.

Reason:

To update members of the Housing Working Party.

## 6 The Homeless Reduction Act

The Committee received a presentation by the Head of Homes First in respect of the Homeless Reduction Act, including a summary of national homelessness statistics, an overview of housing need comparing Lewes and Eastbourne, the challenges of dealing with homelessness faced by local government, and the new duties of the Council under the Homeless Reduction Act. A handout of the presentation was tabled at the meeting and a copy of which is contained in the Minute Book.

Members' discussion included:

- A query regarding the Council's new duty to assess homeless cases and the expected timescale to make each assessment.

Officers responded that:

- The Council aimed to assess a new homeless case within a week.

Resolved:

1. That the content of the presentation be noted.

Reasons:

To update members of the Housing Working Party.

## 7 Any other business

Members discussed that a meeting of the Housing Working Party should be scheduled around July to consider the impact of the Universal Credit system, and to receive an update on projects in the housing development pipeline.

The Head of Homes First requested that any further suggestions of agenda items for that meeting should be sent either to him, or to the Committee Officer.

## 8 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved:

1. That it be agreed and noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Housing Working Party will be held on Wednesday, 11 July 2018 at 2.00pm in the Telscombe Room, Southover House, Southover Road, Lewes.

**All to  
note**

The meeting ended at 3.50pm.

R Maskell  
Chair