

## Scrutiny Recommendation Tracker - June 2016

<b>Tenant Involvement – Housing Panel 11 April</b>				
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Agreed? (Y / N / In part)</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Lead Member &amp; Officer</b>	<b>Implemented Y/N / due date</b>
1. That elected members are asked to approach or suggest tenants who may wish to contribute to tenant involvement.	Y	Agreed	Cllr Rowley & Bill Graves	April 2017
2. That the Tenants in Touch newsletter continues to include some content (e.g. one page) specifically aimed at leaseholders.	Y	This has been in place for the last two editions and apart from the forthcoming issue where it was not possible, will continue in future editions. Members are encouraged to read the newsletter.	Cllr Rowley & Bill Graves	April 2017
3. That consideration is given to exploring opportunities to offset some of the costs of producing Tenants in Touch through paid sponsorship or advertising, as well as promoting local charities and support groups.	Y	We will give consideration to this, with the agreement of the tenants involved in editing the newsletter	Cllr Rowley & Bill Graves	April 2017
4. That Tenants in Touch is fully accessible using the Council's mobile app.	In part / provisionally	We support in principle and will look to incorporate into the IT work programme if feasible.	Cllr Rowley & Bill Graves	April 2017
5. That tenants using the repairs portal are signposted to reporting other things, such as incidents of anti-social behaviour.	In part / provisionally	As above	Cllr Rowley & Bill Graves	April 2017
6. That the Tenant Involvement Team continues to support and link with local IT training (such as the Blackbird Leys	Y	This builds on the excellent work already done in this area	Cllr Rowley & Bill Graves	April 2017

Information Technology Zone) and facilitate trials of new online services.				
7. That tenants are involved in future procurement processes from the early stages through to selection, perhaps on a rotating basis from within a pool of tenants who have expressed an interest.	Y	As above	Cllr Rowley & Bill Graves	April 2017
8. That tenant involvement in recruiting to housing posts is mainstreamed with involved tenants having a full and equal say in the process of recruitment.	Y	As above – for key housing posts.	Cllr Rowley & Bill Graves	April 2017
9. That joint partnership working opportunities continue to be provided, enabling the sharing of best practice and ideas with other local authorities and housing associations.	Y	As above	Cllr Rowley & Bill Graves	April 2017
10. That elected members are invited to the annual Tenant and Leaseholder Conference in future years.	Y	All members are welcome. Notification of events are provided through Tenants in Touch	Cllr Rowley & Bill Graves	April 2017
11. That a training matrix is created to assist in keeping track of which tenants have attended the basic and non-compulsory training courses.	Y	This should allow us to suggest things involved tenants could do to contribute more fully	Cllr Rowley & Bill Graves	April 2017
12. That consideration is given to inviting non-residents to organised activities within	Y	The Council has been considering how to publicise our sheltered accommodation better, and this is a valuable suggestion	Cllr Rowley & Bill Graves	April 2017

sheltered blocks, where it is appropriate and safe to do so.				
13. That consideration is given to the involvement of tenants in regeneration projects at Blackbird Leys and Barton, possibly as part of the Tenant Involvement Team's improvement focus for 2016-17.	Y	We are determined to ensure maximum participation in the regeneration programmes in BBL and Barton, and it would be very helpful for the Tenant Involvement Team to make this a focus for the coming Council year.	Cllr Rowley & Bill Graves	April 2017
14. That consideration is given to opportunities to involve and seek the views of potential future tenants who are currently on the Housing Register.	Y	Although this is more difficult than involving existing tenants for obvious reasons, the input would be valuable and we will look at ways of doing this, in conjunction with the Tenant Involvement Team.		April 2017
<b>Low Carbon Hub – Finance Panel 7 April</b>				
<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	<b><i>Agreed? (Y / N / In part)</i></b>	<b><i>Comment</i></b>	<b><i>Lead Member &amp; Officer</i></b>	<b><i>Implemented Y/N / due date</i></b>
1. That the Council promotes the Low Carbon Hub's call for capital.	Y	The Council will assist with the promotion of Low Carbon Hubs for capital where it can	Cllrs Turner & Tanner	Oct 2016
2. That the Council considers making an investment in the Low Carbon Hub.	Y	An investment in the low carbon hub will count as an unspecified investment for the purposes of treasury management. Such investments are limited to 25% of the councils total investment portfolio since these types of investments are considered inherently more risky and are longer in duration. Additionally the Council will be undertaking prudential borrowing to fund its capital programme over the next few years which will reduce the availability of surplus funds for investment. The Council will however keep the issue under review.	Cllr Turner	Oct 2016
3. That the Council lobbies Government to make	Y	The Council supports the principle of making installations of solar panels viable and can make	Cllrs Turner &	Oct 2016

installations of solar energy systems viable again following recent changes to feed-in tariffs, perhaps by the Leader of the Council writing to the appropriate government minister.		appropriate representations to Government.	Tanner	
4. That Council continues to support Low Carbon Hub projects where appropriate, including potentially by assisting with a bid to fund the installation of solar electricity systems on Council housing, and identifying a suitable location for an energy efficiency project in the City.	Part	Previous discussions between the Council and LCH were based on the Council leasing roof space on council houses at nil cost and LCH funding the installation and receiving the Feed In Tariff (FIT) returns. Reductions made in the FIT tariff before Christmas, made this unviable for street property but there remained a possibility to make it work on flat blocks. The Council could assist in determining suitable properties but is unlikely to provide funding unless viability is proven.	Cllrs Turner & Tanner	Oct 2016
<b>Council Tax and Business Rates Exemptions and Discounts – Finance Panel 7 April</b>				
<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	<b><i>Agreed? (Y / N / In part)</i></b>	<b><i>Comment</i></b>	<b><i>Lead Member &amp; Officer</i></b>	<b><i>Implemented Y/N / due date</i></b>
1. That a cost benefit analysis takes place at an appropriate time to determine what level of Fraud Investigation resources would maximise Council revenues.	Y	The Investigations Team establishment consists of 6 staff (4.7 fte). The award of a grant from DCLG last year has allowed the employment of an additional 2 full time staff which are funded up to March 2017. As such this level of staffing is considered sufficient to provide resources for investigation work on council activities such as council tax and business rates collection as well as discounts and exemptions which the team will be undertaking this year. In addition the team undertake work for other local authorities' which provides additional contribution towards overheads. On the expiry of the grant monies a cost benefit analysis will be undertaken to determine the level of	Cllr Brown & Tanya Bandekar	April 2017

		permanent resource required going forward on the basis of the return to the council.		
2. That consideration is given to whether resources can be increased in the Revenues Team a temporary basis in order to manage peaks in workload such as during the annual student turnover.	In Part	The service currently has a Resilience contract with Capita in place which allows the team to pull on additional resource when needed throughout the year. This has been used in previous years to assist with the workload associated with the new student year and is felt to be adequate currently.	Cllr Brown & Tanya Bandekar	April 2017
<b>Security in communal areas of tower blocks – Housing Panel 9 March / Scrutiny Committee 5 April</b>				
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Agreed? (Y / N / In part)</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Lead Member &amp; Officer</b>	<b>Implemented Y/N / due date</b>
1. That door-knocking to seek views from residents on the behaviour of groups of young people in communal areas takes place at other tower blocks.	Y	This will be conducted between communities, CRT, ASBIT, TVP and Housing	Cllr Sinclair & Daryl Edmunds	Oct 2016
2. That if anti-social behaviour is identified as a problem within a tower block consideration should be given to the temporary use of CCTV coverage at entrances to identify the perpetrators so that the appropriate council officers can engage with them.	Y	CCTV is in place in most tower blocks and we now have a temporary system we can deploy if necessary	Cllr Sinclair & Daryl Edmunds	Y
3. That local police teams are asked to undertake occasional patrols of tower blocks, and where necessary given the means to access internal communal areas, as they can at the Blackbird Leys tower blocks.	Y	The local beat teams have been provided with Fob access to the towers. In addition the can gain access through a radio communication with their control room. Each neighbourhood team works with ASBIT/CRT to develop hotspot patrolling based on actionable intelligence.	Cllr Sinclair & Daryl Edmunds	Y

4. That the Council continues to look at ways of integrating youth engagement activities with other forms of resident and community engagement.	Y	ASBIT/CRT/Communities/Housing and Youth Ambition are continuing to develop youth Appreciative Inquiries, Youth Focus groups and Youth Forums.	Cllr Sinclair & Daryl Edmunds	Oct 2016
<b>Tackling Isolation – Scrutiny Committee 5 April</b>				
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Agreed? (Y / N / In part)</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Lead Member &amp; Officer</b>	<b>Implemented Y/N / due date</b>
1. That the Council continues to provide funding for projects aimed at tackling isolation.	Y	The Council grant programme continues to be available for projects which will reduce older person isolation. A number of organisations were successful in 15/16 in applications to the City Council for grants, such as Cutteslowe Seniors, Friendleys and the Clockhouse project.	Cllr Simm & Luke Nipen	Y
2. That opportunities to involve older people in contributing to the community through isolation projects, such as supporting older people to volunteer for things that will deliver wider social value, are maximised and evaluated.	Y	As part of 'Investors in Volunteers' the community service are identifying more ways to support volunteers in the city. Also, Oxford City Council Commission OCVA to increase volunteer opportunities which will deliver increase social value.	Cllr Simm & Luke Nipen	Oct 2016
3. That the Council looks to develop a more programme-based approach to isolation projects with a view to attracting external funding, as well as looking to draw on external funding and resources in developing a social value assessment that can be used to demonstrate the social impact of isolation projects.	Y	Oxford City Council work with key partners to develop increased support for projects focused on reducing isolation. Working with local organisations and partners to increase opportunities for external funding.  The Communities team is working with Public Health, Oxfordshire CCG and oxford Brookes university on work experience projects where students can help demonstrate the importance of Older Peoples groups and their social benefits / impact on isolation.	Cllr Simm & Luke Nipen	Oct 2016

4. That consideration is given to whether the Council can more effectively target funds for tackling isolation at an older age profile given that the 'older people' group is defined as being the over 50 population.	In part	The Council will continue to work with partners within 50+ networks. We do acknowledge that this may not be an entirely helpful construction of older people and our resources will be targeted at groups experiencing need, in particular, social isolation.	Cllr Simm & Luke Nipen	Y
5. That housing models for elderly people are considered as part of the Local Plan review.	Y	Agreed. The needs of all groups, including the elderly, will be reviewed and taken into account as we develop the new Local Plan.	Cllr Hollingsworth	Y
<b>Discretionary Housing Payment Policy – 2016 Revision – Scrutiny Committee 5 April</b>				
<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	<b><i>Agreed? (Y / N / In part)</i></b>	<b><i>Comment</i></b>	<b><i>Lead Member &amp; Officer</i></b>	<b><i>Implemented Y/N / due date</i></b>
1. That consideration is given to inviting people who were refused a Discretionary Housing Payment in 2015-16 to reapply in light of the proposed policy change and any changes in their personal circumstances.	N	The Council already receive repeat applications from customers previously turned down; indicating people are not dissuaded from reapplying for DHP's. Additionally DHP's are widely promoted through organisations that come into contact with those likely to require support, as well as frontline teams in the Council.	Cllr Brown & Paul Wilding	N/A
2. That the Council keeps a watching brief on the legal position with regards to Discretionary Housing Payment spending limits and on the approaches being taken by other local authorities.	Y	A number of staff in the Welfare Reform Team belong to professional institutes which provide regular updates on changes to regulations and case law as well as best practice elsewhere. The DWP also provide advice in this area and we participate in a couple of local authority forums which include consideration of DHP practice and policy. As such we are well positioned to keep up to date in this area.	Cllr Brown & Paul Wilding	Y

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