

## **Report from the Chairman on the work of the Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee**

This report gives an overview of the main issues considered at the meeting held on 23 November 2021.

### **1. Step Down Service Partnership**

The Council are currently in a partnership with A2Dominion, Elmbridge BC, Runnymede BC, Woking BC and The Whitely Homes Trust that provides short term accommodation for a maximum of six weeks for patients that are ready to leave hospital but need some additional support before returning home. It can also provide support for people to prevent hospital admissions.

It was anticipated that by the end of the year 50-60 residents will have benefited from this service.

The Step Down Service and Partnership Agreement is due to end April 2022 so approval was sought from the Committee to extend this for an additional 12 months.

The Committee **resolved** to extend the agreement by a further 12 months.

### **2. Capital and Revenue Monitoring Reports**

The Committee received reports from the Chief Accountant outlining the Capital and Revenue situation for the Community Wellbeing and Housing Committee as of 30 September 2021.

### **3. Oast House – Bid for Cultural Grant Update**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Deputy Chief Executive who advised that a bid for a Cultural Grant had been submitted and that the decision would be made by the Cultural Development Fund on 22 February 2022.

A public consultation had taken place and 187 responses had been received with 87% stating that they would like to see more cultural activities within the Borough.

If the Council's bid was successful, we would be looking at cultural activities that would create jobs, be financially beneficial to the Council and would bring additional footfall into Staines.

### **4. Household Support Fund**

The Committee were advised that the Council has received £307k Central Government funding allocated via Surrey County Council to use to support vulnerable residents with food and utility bills. All of this funding has to be allocated by the end of March 2022 as any remaining will be taken back by Surrey County Council.

A local scheme had been agreed that would be in the form of a one-off payment for those applicants on a qualifying benefit. It was anticipated that approximately 4400 people in the Borough could be helped under this scheme.

The scheme is being publicised extensively throughout the Borough in order to reach as many residents as possible.

## **5. Shared Ownership Strategy**

The Committee were advised that the Council's Shared Ownership Strategy had not been reviewed since 2019 and that it now required updating.

A new model of shared ownership has recently been introduced by Central Government that will operate alongside the Affordable Homes Programme for the next five years. The revised Shared Ownership Scheme will be administered by a local agent and not the Council.

A provision has been written into the revised scheme that requires a developer to concentrate marketing of shared ownership properties within the Borough for the first three months to attract Spelthorne residents first.

The Committee **resolved** to approve the adoption of the revised Shared Ownership Scheme.

## **6. Refugee Settlement Update**

The Committee were advised that the number of people in temporary accommodation was 73. 14 families have now found permanent housing elsewhere in the country and have now moved out of the Borough.

## **7. Leisure Operator Procurement Project Update**

The Committee received an update on the Leisure Operator Procurement Project.