

# **Cabinet Response to the Preventing Homelessness Task Group**

## Introduction

At the Cabinet meeting on 5th October 2016 consideration was given to the report of the Preventing Homelessness Task Group.

The Leader welcomed Councillor Chris Bloore to the meeting as the Chairman of the Task Group, and thanked him for giving a short presentation explaining the work of the Task Group and summarizing its recommendations.

The Cabinet was happy to endorse all the recommendations as detailed below and confirmed that the Portfolio Holder would attend a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board when he would provide a formal response together with timescales for implementation of the recommendations.

## Response to recommendations

Please find below the formal responses to the recommendations contained within the Review report:

### **Recommendation 1**

We recommend that officers should investigate the introduction of a local authority lettings scheme that would help customers to access private rented accommodation. This investigation should take into account working in partnership with Redditch Borough Council. The outcomes of this investigation should be reported for the consideration of the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Cabinet.

### **Cabinet Response**

This recommendation was agreed.

### **Implementation date:**

**This work has already begun and an initial discussion paper will be produced by the end of December 2016.**

### **Recommendation 2**

The Council should commit to use all of the Homeless Grant for the purposes of priority homelessness support.

### **Cabinet Response**

This recommendation was agreed.

**Implementation date: November 2016 onwards**

### **Recommendation 3**

Subject to the Council continuing to receive the Homeless Grant, it should continue to prioritise funding in respect of offender rehabilitation and emergency accommodation for young people, in order for services to remain sustainable within the district.

### **Cabinet Response**

Recommendation 3 was agreed.

**Implementation date: April 2017 onwards**

### **Recommendation 4**

The £15,000 of funding allocated by the Portfolio Holder be allocated to the Essential Living Fund (ELF) and any surplus be ring fenced for use in the next financial year.

### **Cabinet Response**

The Council's Housing Strategy Manager advises that during the course of the O&S review, it has become increasingly clear that homelessness prevention must continue to be a priority for councils going forwards into 2017-8. As a result, it is important to focus on funding these services, so further consideration at O&S nearer the end of this current financial year about the future use of any surplus as mentioned in recommendation 4 could prove to be timely. It may be that investing any surplus into homelessness prevention is the most effective use of the funds, in line with recommendations 2 and 3.

**Implementation date: April 2017 onwards**