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Our reference:
Your reference:
Date: 17 January 2011

To all Members of the Community Development Group

Dear Councillor

A meeting of the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP will be held on Monday 24 January 2011 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford to consider the following items of business.

Yours sincerely

Head of Corporate Services

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. Notes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 26 October 2010 (pages 1 - 5)
4. Cabinet Member Questions
5. Review of Homelessness

The report of the Strategic Housing Manager is attached (pages 6 - 14).

6. Leisure Strategy Review - 2nd Interim Report

The report of the Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Panel is attached (pages 15 - 18).

7. Work Programme

The report of the Deputy Chief Executive (PR) is attached (page 19).

Membership

Chairman: Councillor Mrs J A Smith
Vice-Chairman: Councillor M G Hemsley
Councillors S J Boote, T Combellack, J E Cottee, T W Holt, G R Mallender,
J A Stockwood, B Tansley

Meeting Room Guidance

Fire Alarm - Evacuation - in the event of an alarm sounding you should evacuate the building using the nearest fire exit, normally through the Council Chamber. You should assemble in the Nottingham Forest car park adjacent to the main gates.

Toilets - Facilities, including those for the disabled, are located opposite Committee Room 2.

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NOTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP
TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2010

Held at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Pavilion Road, West Bridgford

PRESENT:

Councillors Mrs J A Smith (Chairman), S J Boote, T Combellack, M G Hemsley, T W Holt, G R Mallender, P W Smith (appointed as a substitute for Councillor J E Cottee), J A Stockwood and B Tansley

OFFICERS PRESENT:

S Dempsey	Principal Conservation & Design Officer
D Dwyer	Strategic Housing Manager
S Harley	Head of Planning and Place Shaping
P Marshall	Principal Planner
V Nightingale	Senior Member Support Officer
P Randle	Deputy Chief Executive (PR)

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor J E Cottee

8. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

9. Notes of the Previous Meeting

The notes of the meeting held on Monday 26 July 2010 were accepted as a true record.

Councillor Boote raised the issue of tetrapaks and how too much emphasis was put on to the amount of increased weight recycling different materials could achieve. He felt that other issues should be taken into account such as environmental impact, reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill. He believed it was vital that the Council found a supplier who could re-use this material.

Councillor Stockwood drew Members attention to Item 5 Children and Young People and the Group's request to reconsider this issue in early 2011.

10. Cabinet Member Questions

There were none received.

11. Affordable Housing in Rural Areas

The Principal Planner gave a presentation on the process, progress and future of the Council's programme to build affordable homes in the rural areas, known as exception sites, which were supported by national government

policy. He stated that this type of development did not compromise the Green Belt or countryside policies. Members were informed of the Trent Valley Partnership that had been developed to deliver these projects. It was felt that the Partnership approach gave a more robust methodology and a degree of control.

Members were informed that the process had been developed and had evolved over time. As part of the process all small villages of less than 3,000 people had been contacted to seek support for such schemes. If the parish council was supportive the Partnership carried out a survey to identify a viable site, village need and general support. As part of an exception site the land was sold at agricultural values which enabled sites to be viable and affordable. Following a question Members were informed that these houses remained affordable in perpetuity and, if shared ownership, that there would always be some equity in the property that was not for sale.

The Group were informed that 14 housing needs surveys had been undertaken resulting in 12 potential sites for rural exception development being considered. The 12 sites were capable of delivering up to 82 affordable properties within the smaller parishes across the Borough.

The Group considered the process as set out in the appendix and whether it was appropriate. With regard to the process, Members were informed that after five years the reliability of a survey was doubtful; however within those five years the process could be restarted at any point. The Strategic Housing Manager explained that in East Bridgford a new survey had been undertaken. With regard to the two parishes that had not progressed schemes Members were informed that it was probably due to a lack of support as there was sufficient development in the area; surveys were undertaken following support from the parish council but there had to be a local need identified. Also as the parishes were key to the process they could opt out of the process at any time.

The Strategic Housing Manager explained that nationally new initiatives regarding housing trusts were being developed which would give parish councils more control, however the Council had received very little information at present. Following a question regarding the required level of support proposed and the costs associated with a possible referendum to enable a development to proceed without the need for planning permission, the Deputy Chief Executive (PR) explained that as yet there was no further information but agreed to inform Members as soon as possible.

Following a question, the Group were informed that the Partnership had initially developed a programme to survey all parishes under 3,000 population which were considered sustainable as this was a key criteria for leveraging funding from the Homes and Communities Agency. All of these parishes had now been completed. The Partnership were now consulting with the parishes again to identify areas where there was support to carry out another survey.

Members queried why there was a need for the Partnership to have control of the process. The Strategic Housing Manager explained that the Partnership had to ensure that planning policy was followed and that the process was consistent, transparent and engaged with residents. The Head of Planning and Place Shaping stated that it was imperative that the Council could show that

the money was being spent fairly over the Borough. The Deputy Chief Executive (PR) explained that the Council, as part of the Partnership, had acted as a conduit, provided confidence for the parishes and links to the planning process. He also stated that with regard to the second development at East Bridgford the Partnership had less involvement.

With regard to funding, Members were informed that following stock transfer the Council had committed £4.8 million towards social housing and that some of this funding had been made available for exception sites. The average grant for exception site developments equated to £15,000 per unit.

Following a question, officers explained that there were extra criteria to the tenancy requirements to ensure that local need was met. With regard to shared ownership there was a national criteria that the household purchasing an intermediate product, including shared ownership must not earn more than £60,000 per annum.

Members queried how agricultural land was obtained and whether incentives were offered. Officers stated that no incentives were available and that one of the drivers was a social conscience, also the land was not able to be used for market value housing. Members were given an example of land at Kinoulton that had been owned by a local family.

The Group discussed the definition of Affordable Housing and agreed with the national definition as defined in Planning Policy 3. It was felt that some schemes would not have support because people did not understand the definition of affordable/social housing. However, as each scheme was completed this should dissipate concerns.

Members agreed that the process set out in Appendix 1 to support Rural Affordable Housing was appropriate and felt that it did not need to be altered or strengthened in any way.

Whilst considering whether the programme had been successful and offered value for money, Members of the Group discussed whether the schemes were meeting the needs of the local area. It was noted that more need was identified in the west of the Borough whereas more schemes had been developed in the east; officers explained that this was due to support for the schemes. The Strategic Housing Manager explained that although a couple of the shared ownership units had been hard to sell due to the current economic climate all the units were now occupied. It was confirmed that as the affordable units were required to be kept in perpetuity they would continue to meet local need.

The Group discussed the Council's grant towards energy efficiency measures for the new developments and whether this met the needs of vulnerable people or if it could be used differently. Officers explained that when developing properties officers tried to address as many of the Council's priorities as possible, including the use of renewable energy and reducing fuel poverty. Members agreed that it was more cost effective to fit energy efficiency measures as part of a new build rather than retrofitting properties which proved to be very costly.

Members agreed that the Council should continue to provide support for the provision of affordable housing in rural areas on the current basis.

It was AGREED that

- i) the Group recognised the work that had been undertaken by the Trent Valley Partnership and considered that the programme had been successful and offered value for money, and
- ii) that the programme should be supported in its present form in the future.

12. **Small Environmental Improvements Programme**

The Principal Conservation & Design Officer gave a short presentation on the small environmental improvement programme. She explained that it had been introduced in 1993 and aimed to provide money for schemes to enhance the public realm, from providing benches to improving shopping parades. There was also the parish planting scheme where up to £500 per parish could be awarded towards tree and bulb planting. In 2003 £850,000 was included in the programme for West Bridgford Town Centre. The annual budget for the programme was £105,000 plus £28,000 for fees. With regard to the parish planting scheme one parish expressed concerns this year about the use of resources for this purpose.

It was explained that a letter was sent to all parishes and Borough Councillors every two to three years for proposals. The criteria were that the scheme had to provide a visual enhancement, was not on public land wholly owned by either the Borough or County Council or fell under the remit of another budget. The majority of schemes were designed to have no, or low, maintenance. Contributions were not requested from the parishes although shop owners were asked for a contribution where their frontages were being improved.

Members discussed the marketing of the scheme and felt that there should be an annual update to Members. The Deputy Chief Executive (PR) explained that originally there had been a sub committee to oversee the programme; however the cost of administration of the programme had to be balanced against the overall scheme budget. Members felt that there should at least be involvement in the schemes from the Ward Member.

With regard the funding some Members were concerned that some of the schemes were too large and that by funding these projects it did not support the Council's decision to remove grant funding for the parishes and ensuring that the parishes raised their own funds. However, it was recognised that the Borough Council had the officer expertise which would be difficult for all parishes to have. If more power and responsibility was devolved to parishes this could become a challenge. Members felt that there should be more information how this scheme dovetailed with other grants available from the Council.

In respect of the programme, officers explained that there was a five year rolling programme and there was a pool of schemes to be considered. However, the programme was coming to an end and was due to be refreshed.

Members and officers felt that there was an opportunity for the scheme to be evaluated, to consider whether it offered value for money and what measures could be implemented to assist in deciding if the scheme was successful. It was also felt that the scheme should be linked to the Council's priorities and not the Community Strategy. Another aspect to be considered would be match funding, although this had not been part of the original scheme it had to be considered in the present economic climate. Members felt that by asking for match funding this would dissuade the smaller parishes and those areas that were unparished, and could be inequitable towards the larger parishes.. It was noted that there would be a freeze on how much Council Tax could be raised by the parish/town and Borough Councils. Members were reminded that Cropwell Bishop had, with the support of its residents, raised a significant amount via the parish precept to build a community hall.

Members considered whether the programme should be limited to schemes of under £10,000.

Following a question, officers explained that if in a year the budget was uncommitted it would be returned to allocations, however the budget had always been committed.

The Group agreed that Members supported the parish planting scheme.

It was AGREED that

- i) the Group recognised the work that had been undertaken as part of the Small Environmental Improvements Programme; but
- ii) considered that the future of the programme should be reviewed having particular regard to the Council's current budget discussions.

13. Programme

The Group considered its work programme. It felt that the issue of Children and Young People should be added to the Group's meeting in April. The Deputy Chief Executive (PR) explained that, at a recent Scrutiny Chairmen and Vice Chairmen's meeting it had been agreed that the work programmes needed to be flexible and that they might be need to be revised.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Action Sheet

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP - TUESDAY 26 OCTOBER 2010

Minute Number	Actions	Officer Responsible
11. Affordable Housing in Rural Areas	The Deputy Chief Executive (PR) agreed to inform Members as soon as possible regarding the new national initiative in respect of housing trusts especially regarding the required level of support proposed and the costs associated with a possible referendum.	Deputy Chief Executive (PR)

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC HOUSING MANAGER

Summary

This Report:

- Sets out what has been achieved in the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2008-13 and explores the scope and impact of homelessness in Rushcliffe, including predicted future trends, emerging issues and the resources available to the Council to tackle homelessness.
- Reviews the emerging policy context for homelessness, local homelessness issues and the use of the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Homelessness Prevention Grant.

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Members of the Group endorse the work that is being undertaken to prevent and tackle homelessness and consider if the current approach offers value for money.

Background

1. Rushcliffe has a statutory duty to households considered to be homeless under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002). The Act also places a statutory duty on Councils to have in place a homelessness strategy based on a review of all forms of homelessness in their districts. The first strategy was required by July 2003 and was to be reviewed at least every 5 years.
2. National Statistics show that the Government strategy to prevent homelessness is working. These successes are a result of effective partnerships between local authorities, local public bodies, housing associations, and the voluntary sector to tackle the causes of homelessness. Prevention services have proven to be most successful in addressing the problem.

Homelessness Strategy

3. A substantially revised Homelessness Strategy 2008-13 was adopted by Rushcliffe Borough Council in November 2008. The strategy builds on the achievements of the previous homelessness strategy and sets a framework for continued improvements of the housing options and homelessness services. It links to other strategies and plans such as the Rushcliffe Sustainable Community Strategy and the Housing Strategy 2009-16.
4. Rushcliffe's homelessness strategy has been to proactively prevent homelessness occurring in the first place, rather than react to homelessness.

5. The action plan within the strategy sets out a range of key actions to be undertaken by the Council and its partners to achieve the three primary objectives identified in the Homelessness Act 2003:
 - Prevention of homelessness by enabling people to access adequate and appropriate housing advice
 - Help at the point of homelessness to prevent rough sleeping
 - Enabling the move away from homelessness, including support to live in new move-on accommodation.

6. Achievements in the 2008-13 homelessness strategy to date include:

Preventing homelessness

- Nearly 500 households have had their homelessness prevented (Apr 2008 – Dec 2010)
- The Council's Deposit Guarantee Scheme (Rentstart) has assisted 24 households into rented accommodation
- The Council has made 220 direct nominations to households threatened with homelessness through the 'planned move process'
- The Spend to Save front line prevention fund has helped to avert 8 imminent homelessness cases
- Funding provided for Citizens Advice Bureau for outreach advice in Cotgrave
- Development of a credit union in Cotgrave. Credit Union advising applicants on Rentstart
- Housing Options Advisors completed specialist mortgage repossession training; debt advice referral protocol agreed
- 30 educational seminars provided to young people at risk of homelessness through the schools project
- Implementation of court desk service to residents threatened with homelessness as a result of mortgage arrears

Help at the point of homelessness

- Homelessness presentations and acceptances down
- CLG targets on halving the number of households in temporary accommodation sustained
- Advice surgeries provided at the Friary Drop-in Centre
- Completion of Supporting People 'Quality Assessment Framework' (QAF) at the Council's temporary accommodation premises (achieved Level B – 'Good')
- Service users at temporary accommodation premises being consulted via residents meeting on the quality of accommodation
- County Children & Young Persons protocol developed and joint assessment panel implemented
- Elimination of families and children in bed and breakfast accommodation

Supporting the move away from homelessness

- Provision of Surestart services at the Council's temporary accommodation premises
- Referrals to health visitors and school nurse of all homeless households accommodated in temporary accommodation
- Provided targeted support to vulnerable individuals at temporary accommodation

Tackling the causes of homelessness

- Since 2008, 26 young people have been prevented from being made homeless by parental eviction as a result of home visits by Housing Options staff
- Implementation and regular attendance of County Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee (MARAC) for victims of domestic violence
- Utilise prevention funding to provide financial incentives to private landlords to ensure the availability of private rented properties for households on low-incomes

Preventing Homelessness

7. A body of evidence is building up that shows preventing homelessness is cost effective. The main drivers for homelessness are economic and housing (structural) and personal, and inter-personal (individual) problems.
8. Shelter and Acclaim Consulting have published national research¹ that shows the average outcome cost of prevention is £826, and accepting a homelessness duty is £2,112, based on the authorities they have studied. This means that the average cost saving to the Council of completing a prevention is £1,286. The cost saving to the public purse as a whole is considerably higher.
9. Using the Shelter prevention figure (£1,286) multiplied by the number of successful preventions undertaken during 2009/10 (169), the maximum estimated cost saving to the Council equates to £217,334. However, this figure assumes every prevention case would actually have become homeless which may not always be the case. A more realistic estimate would be to assume that 50% of prevention cases would have needed to apply as homeless providing an estimated £108,667 cost saving per year to the Council.
10. Through our 'invest to save' approach we have reduced homelessness considerably and last year achieved:
 - 193 successful preventions in 2009/10. At the end of quarter 3 (Dec 2010) we have achieved 183 preventions which has already exceeded this year's target of 150, an increase of 71% from 2008/09 preventions.
 - Only 32 cases needing to be accepted as homeless as a result. At the end of Quarter (3 Dec 2010), 15 cases needing to be accepted as homeless, a 51% decrease from 2009/10 figure. This figure has drastically improved as a result of the increase in the successful homelessness preventions.

¹ Shelter and Acclaim: 'Value for Money in Housing Options and Homelessness Services', October 2010

- Only 7 cases in temporary accommodation exceeding the temporary accommodation target of 30.
11. The main prevention tools used by the Council to assist in preventing homelessness include; advice and assistance on housing options, mediation, home visits, rent guarantee scheme, sanctuary scheme and the First Lets scheme.
 12. Preventing homelessness (through the use of mortgage rescue scheme, court desks, money advice, repossessions prevention fund) has meant levels of repossessions have not peaked to predicted levels and in 2009 have begun to reduce compared to the previous year. However, the risk of this increasing in the future is higher given the current Government reforms and the likelihood this could have on rising unemployment and subsequent risk of repossessions.
 13. The number of people approaching the Housing Options and Homelessness Services has remained constant at about 850 households per year, but the numbers of households that are accepted as being statutorily homeless has reduced. During 2008/09 there were 42 households accepted as homeless and in 2009/10 there were 32. During this time Housing Options prevented 314 households with significant improvements during 2010/11. The undoubted success of our prevention services has been timely advice on housing options, and the use of bed and breakfast for families with children has been eliminated.

Preventing Homelessness Grant

14. On 13 December 2010 the Government announced that the Council would receive £50,000 in Homelessness Grant which is a 26% increase on our previous Homelessness Grant for 2009/10. This level of grant is guaranteed for each of the years 2011/12 and 2012/13.
15. Although all grants remain unringfenced, the Government has made a clear commitment to protecting and increasing the grant for Homelessness Prevention and is keen to see the grant used for this purpose. It is important to note that 'Preventing Homelessness Grant' is one of only 2 DCLG revenue grants that will remain outside formula grant funding. This is because its success as a targeted grant has been fundamental to achieving the staggering fall of over 75% in homeless acceptances and 50% in the number of households in temporary accommodation nationally over the last 5 years.
16. This commitment to tackling homelessness has also been backed by a letter from the Secretary of State for DCLG to leaders of local authorities when the spending review was announced in October 2010. In that letter he highlighted the Government's commitment to protecting vulnerable people by protecting funding for homelessness prevention.

Current and Predicted Trends

17. We have to be mindful of the current and likely future homelessness trends and their likely impact on our Homeless and Housing Options Service. The national homeless statistics for England published on 9 December (covering the end of September 2010 quarter) record that the number of households accepted as homeless is 14 per cent higher than the same quarter last year.

This is also 12 per cent higher than the previous June 2010 quarter. Following a long term downward trend since 2004 acceptances have now increased nationally in two consecutive quarters for the first time since 2003.

18. Due to the success of our prevention work the national position has not yet been mirrored locally. The number of households accepted as homeless in Rushcliffe is 30% per cent lower than the same quarter last year (from 10 to 7 cases) and 29% per cent lower than the previous June 2010 quarter. The number of households in temporary accommodation decreased by 17% (from 12 to 10) from July to September 2010. This compares to a 6% regional increase during the same period. We have almost halved the use of temporary accommodation (from 19 to 10) from the previous December 2010 quarter.
19. Tables 1 & 2 compare the local trends of preventions, decisions and acceptances over time, as well as the use of temporary accommodation.

Table 1 – Rushcliffe Borough Council Homelessness

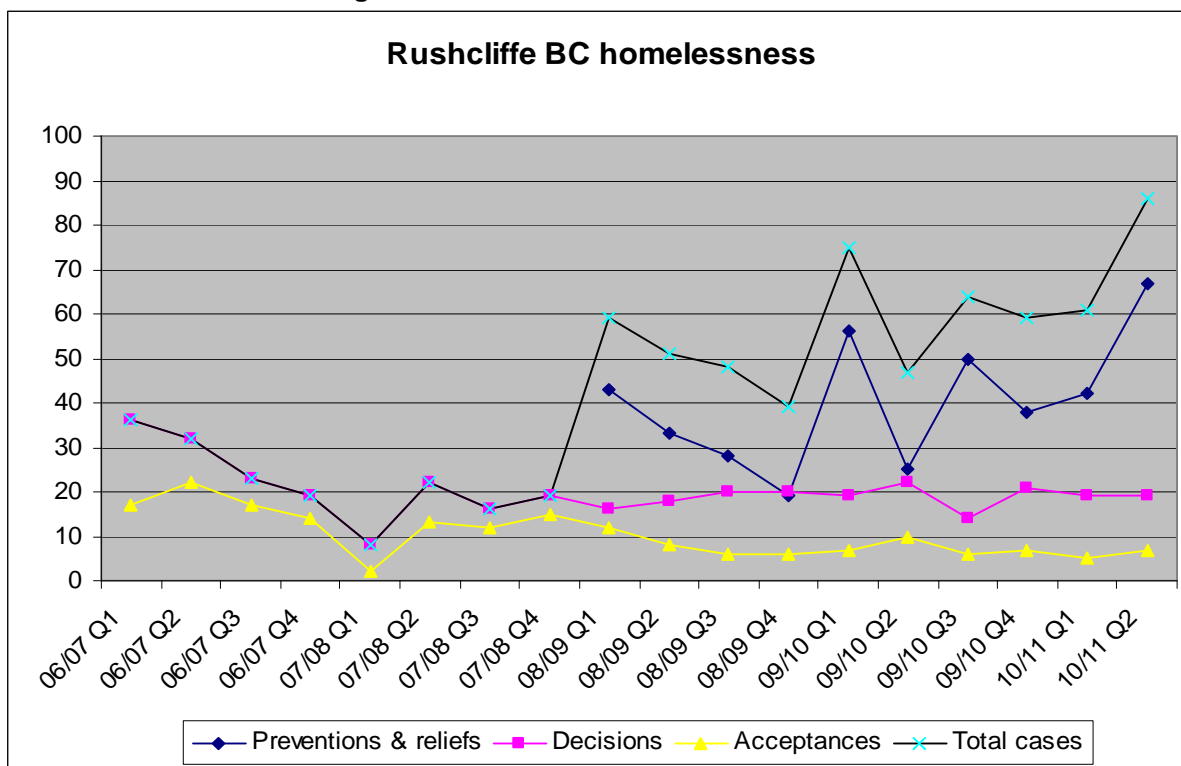
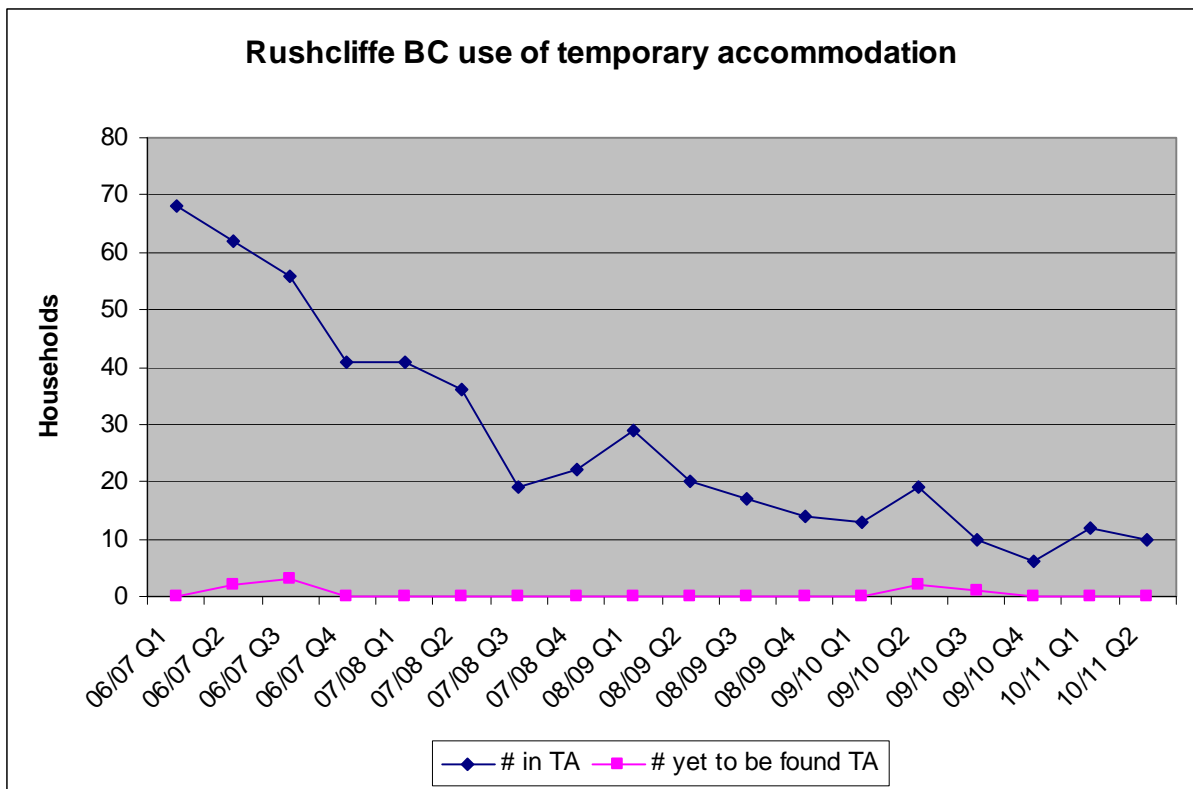
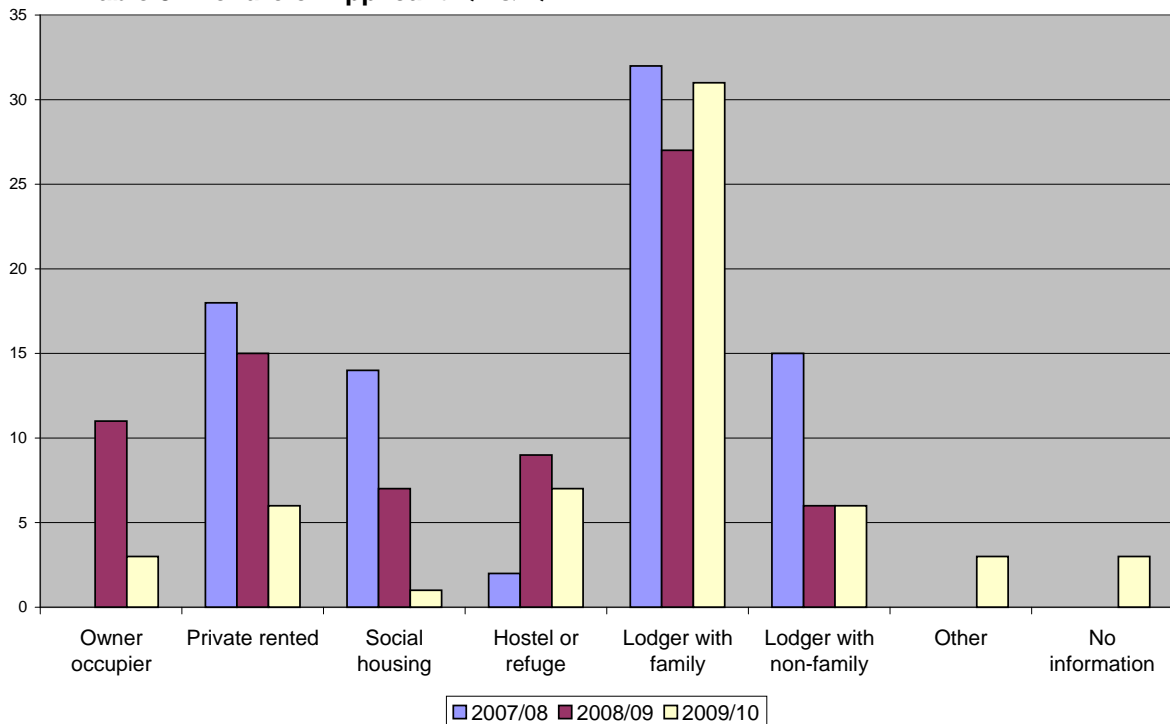


Table 2 – Rushcliffe Borough Council use of Temporary Accommodation



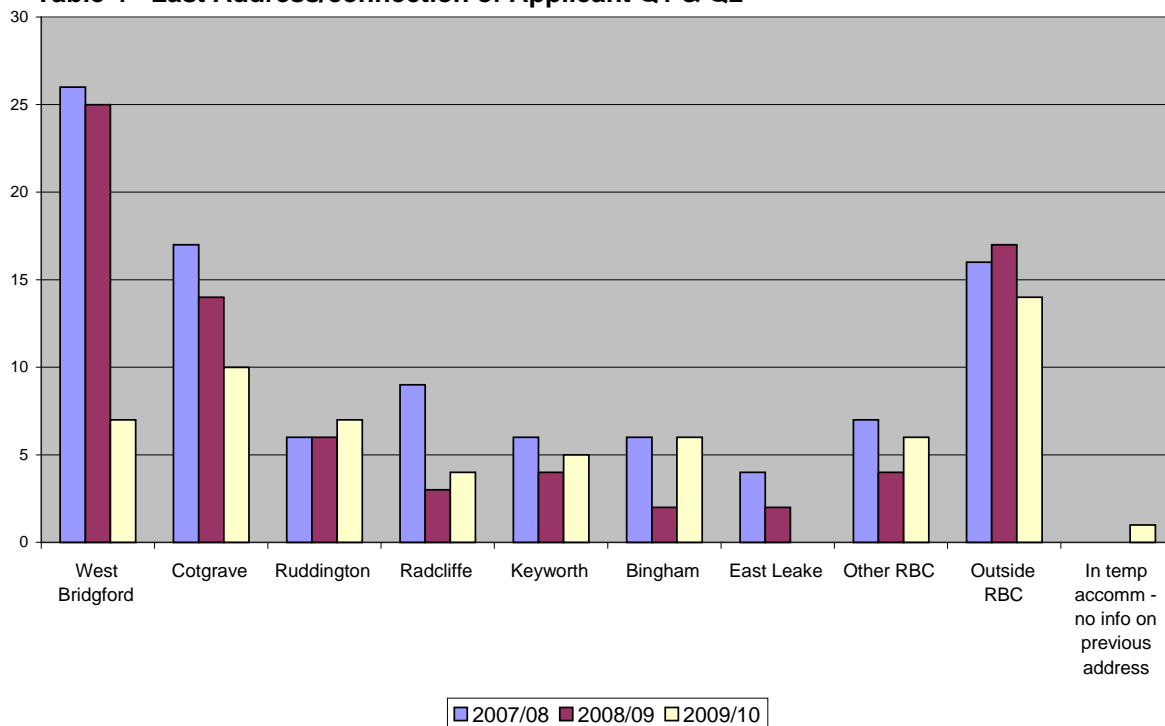
20. Tables 3 to 5 compare the previous tenure of homeless applicants, the area they became homeless from, and the reason for their application. Figures are taken from the first two quarters of 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2010/11. 2010/11 figures are only available for reasons for homelessness. 2007/08 figures are only used for the other two variables to provide historical context.

Table 3 - Tenure of Applicant Q1 & Q2



21. Figures for 2009/10 (table 3) show fewer applications as a result of failed tenancies in both private and social rented housing. This would be a welcome development, but the higher number of applications recorded as a result of parental eviction should be noted. This is comparable with the reasons for applying for homelessness (Table 5) which indicate a sustained level of young people applying as homeless, although this is not too dissimilar to other categories applying as homeless which overall have mirrored 2008/09 trends.

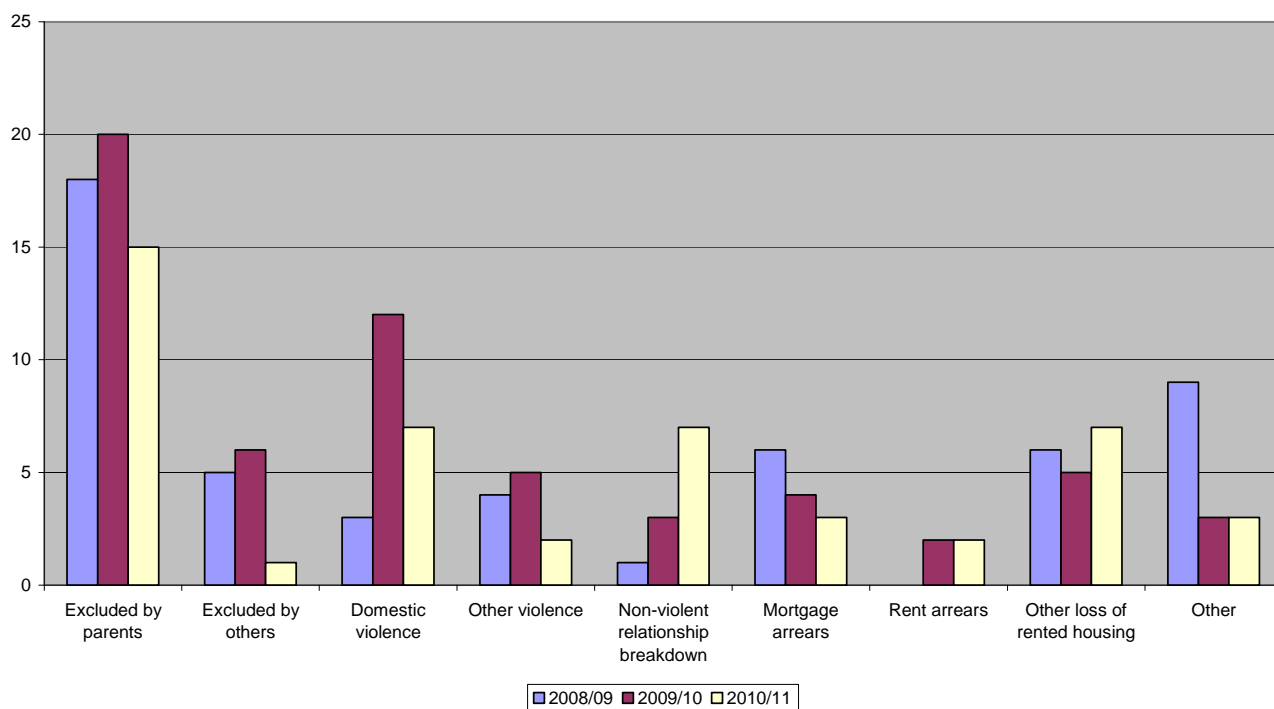
Table 4 - Last Address/connection of Applicant Q1 & Q2



22. Table 4 identifies the last address, showing which parts of the Borough (and beyond) homeless applicants last lived in. There has been a slight reduction in those applying as homeless from outside the Borough. A significant number of applicants who are homeless as a result of domestic violence originate from outside the Borough and come to Rushcliffe to escape violence in other areas, which could account for the relatively high numbers in this category. The numbers applying from West Bridgford have reduced substantially with a more even distribution of increases of presentations from across the Borough.

Table 5 – reasons for homelessness application

Reason for application Q1 & Q2



(Total homelessness applications 2008: 52 2009: 60 2010: 47)

23. The continued low rate of applications due to mortgage arrears (table 6) suggests the success of Government schemes to support homeowners and prevent rising unemployment translating into homelessness. However, it is important we build on the work undertaken in our response to tackling the recession in order to plan to mitigate the risk of repossessions across all tenures. The effect of repossessions will not just be seen in mortgage cases. There is also a risk of an increase in the number of people losing their home in the social sector and private rented sector due to the evictions for rent arrears caused by debt and loss of income due to unemployment or reduced household income. There may also be an increase in family breakdown cases where tensions increase at home, and increased homelessness due to relationship breakdown, although the decreased number of presentations due to domestic violence is a welcome development that suggests partnership work in this area is having an effect.

Homelessness and Housing Options Health Check

24. DCLG undertook an informal assessment of the Council’s Homelessness and Housing Options Services on 6 - 8 December 2010. The assessment explored the customer journey through Homelessness and Housing Options by talking to internal and external partners with the aim of identifying gaps, highlighting poor service provision, recognising good practice and making recommendations for service improvement. A report and action plan for service improvements will be available soon.

Economic, Housing and Government Policy Changes

25. Pressures on services in a challenging economic climate are likely to impact on the need for our services in 2011/12. It is important we have resilience in our services to respond to the proposed changes to Housing Benefit, the reduction in Supporting People services for vulnerable people and the changes to Government funding for new housing. This is likely to result in more people presenting as homeless to the Council, and more people being accepted as owed a duty to assist and/or accommodate them. Therefore, we are going to have to work considerably harder to reduce the impact on local people and the Homelessness Prevention Grant will be critical to achieving this.

Conclusion

26. There is a real risk that the homeless pressures we will inevitably face in 2011/12 could lead to an increase in homelessness and temporary accommodation. Consequently, the cost of dealing with homelessness and increased temporary accommodation usage could be considerable and in excess of any savings made if we do not retain the full resources allocated to tackling homelessness.
27. Homelessness prevention is a core element in tackling homelessness and making better use of limited public resources and ensuring value for money. The homelessness prevention grant will enable the Council to provide a range of housing options to assist households in securing good quality housing in a timely and planned approach.

Question 1 - Do members of the group agree that the current approach to preventing and tackling homelessness is successful and offers value for money?

Financial Comments

Actions planned for the current year will be funded from existing budgets. Actions planned for future years are subject to appropriate internal and external funding streams being identified.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

The Homelessness Strategy aims to develop a more strategic approach to delivering against our Section 17 obligations and help in the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Diversity

An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken in 2009. The needs of various community groups who experience homelessness/ are at risk of homelessness have been taken into consideration in the formulation of this strategy.

Background Papers Available for Inspection: Nil

REPORT OF THE LEISURE FACILITIES MEMBER PANEL

Summary

This report provides interim feedback on the areas for investigation identified following the first report by the Leisure Facilities Strategy Member Panel in April 2010 which agreed the following areas for further investigation:

- Finalise the role of joint use facilities in conjunction with Nottinghamshire County Council
- Identify good practice examples of leisure facilities being operated by community/voluntary enterprise arrangements and consider which facilities in Rushcliffe could benefit from this type of management arrangement
- Consider a full audit of leisure facilities (indoor, outdoor, open space and play areas) and develop a set of minimum standards for the level of provision the Council should be aiming to ensure is provided across all leisure activities
- Consider the emerging issues associated with housing growth including the level of contribution and land required from developers as part of Section 106 agreements to enable the Council to develop new facilities
- Identify how leisure facilities can be best future proofed to ensure they are adaptable to meet changes in leisure trends

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Group note the progress made by the Member Panel into the areas recommended for investigation by the Community Development Group at its meeting of 19 April 2010.

Details

1. The progress on each of the areas identified by the Community Development Group is detailed below.

Joint Use

2. Finalise the role of joint use facilities in conjunction with Nottinghamshire County Council –
 - The Member Panel has previously identified its concerns over the condition of the Bingham and Rushcliffe Leisure Centres describing

them as looking old and tired. The Panel has also been concerned to understand how the changing status of schools, to Foundation and Academy, might impact on the existing joint use agreement.

- The Panel received a presentation from a Nottinghamshire County Council Education Officer describing Nottinghamshire County Council's approach to a future joint use agreement which dealt with changed school status and future funding proposals which would see an improved level of funding for joint use sites.
- A report on this issue has been considered by Cabinet in January 2011 and the new joint use agreement and funding proposal considered.
- Further work on the role these sites might have in the future is to be considered in the coming months.

Community and Voluntary Enterprise Arrangements

3. Identify good practice examples of leisure facilities being operated by community/voluntary enterprise arrangements and consider which facilities in Rushcliffe could benefit from this type of management arrangement –
 - Members considered a report detailing the history and growth of such management arrangements across a broad range of facilities and businesses
 - The Lenton Centre is a social enterprise organisation set up to run a former Nottingham City Council leisure/community facility. The Chief Executive of the Lenton Centre made a presentation to the Panel detailing the establishment of the social enterprise and the progress that has been made with the organisation and the facility since its establishment.
 - Members of the Panel were very impressed with what has been achieved and felt that there was a potential for smaller leisure centres and community halls to be operated in this way.

Audit of Current Provision

4. Consider a full audit of leisure facilities (indoor, outdoor, open space and play areas) and develop a set of minimum standards for the level of provision the Council should be aiming to ensure is provided across all leisure activities –
 - An audit of built facilities has been updated
 - Work on open space and play areas is close to completion with feedback and input awaited from Parishes to finalise the audit
 - The setting of any standards has not yet been considered however, the Panel has an aspiration to ensure that access to good quality leisure facilities is not wholly dependent on where people live

Housing Growth Issues

5. Consider the emerging issues associated with housing growth including the level of contribution and land required from developers as part of Section 106 agreements to enable the Council to develop facilities –
 - At its most recent meeting the Panel considered a report from the Planning Policy Manager which identified the replacing of section 106 agreements and the creation of a Community Infrastructure Levy.
 - The Council will need to have an adopted Development Plan in place before it is able to set rates for the levy which will necessarily influence what may be provided following any development.
 - More work is required on the establishment of the Council's Development Plan before the Member Panel can fully assess how the Leisure Facilities Strategy can achieve the correct levels of provision across the Borough.

Future Trends for Leisure

6. Identify how leisure facilities can best be future proofed to ensure they are adaptable to meet changes in leisure trends -
 - The Panel heard how Ashfield District Council had moved from two old facilities, one of which was a joint use site, to the new Lammas Leisure Centre site. Not only did this provide new attractive, better laid out facilities it has also resulted in significant revenue savings
 - This is an area that will be further explored at the next scheduled meeting of the Panel on 1 February 2011 when Parkwood Leisure will make a presentation to the Panel on developments across its portfolio which have seen either new facilities built or existing facilities adapted to address this challenge.

Interim Findings and Conclusions

7. The findings from the work carried out thus far by the Panel are as follows:-
 - The proposed new joint use arrangements offer an improved financial package for the Council with immediate effect and retain the existing termination clauses. This should provide the Council with a sufficient timeframe to allow any decisions about the future of the joint use sites to be properly considered and consulted upon.
 - The potential role that voluntary and community groups could play in the future management of facilities should be considered as an option in the future.
 - The provision of appropriate leisure facilities for the future is closely linked to housing growth and the development of the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy. Consideration of these issues should be a priority when setting the levy.

- Work on developing the leisure portfolio to meet future needs will be considered by the Panel early in 2011.
- The anticipated completion of the review will be in the summer of 2011.

Financial Comments

There are no direct financial implications.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

The Member Panel will consider Section 17 implications as part of the review of the strategy.

Diversity

The Member Panel will consider Diversity implications as part of the review of the strategy.

Background Papers Available for Inspection:

Report to Community Development Group 19April 2010

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

24 JANUARY 2011

WORK PROGRAMME**7****REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (PR)****Summary**

The work programme for the Community Development Group is developed around the corporate priorities that fall within its remit and takes into account the timing of the Group's business in the previous municipal year and any emerging issues and key policy developments that may arise throughout the year.

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that the Group considers and agrees the proposed work programme.

Date of Meeting	Item
24 January 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homelessness – Strategy and Action Plan• South Notts Home Improvement Agency• Work Programme• 2nd Interim Report of the Leisure Facilities Member Panel
18 April 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nature Conservation Strategy• Annual Report• Work Programme
18 July 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of Work Programme• Work Programme

Financial Comments

No direct financial implications arise from the proposed work programme

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act

In the delivery of its work programme the Group supports delivery of the Council's Section 17 responsibilities.

Diversity

The policy development role of the Group ensures that its proposed work programme supports delivery of Council's Corporate priority 6 'Meeting the Diverse needs of the Community'.

Background Papers Available for Inspection: Nil