

## HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2015

### DECISIONS

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the Housing Portfolio Holder's Meeting held on Wednesday, 18 March 2015. Decisions made by the Portfolio Holder will be subject to call-in. Recommendations made to the Cabinet or to the Council are not subject to call-in. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the minutes.

If you have any queries about any matters referred to in this decision sheet please contact Victoria Wallace.

#### 1. COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT AND ASSOCIATED ACTIONS

The Housing Portfolio Holder **APPROVED**:

- a) The Community Impact Statement.
- b) The Financial Inclusion Strategy.
- c) The payment of £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) to the Rainbow Anglia Credit Union Ltd.
- d) The Digital Inclusion Strategy.
- e) The in principle appointment of a fixed term post to help deliver the Digital Inclusion Strategy action plan.

**Other Options Considered:** The Portfolio Holder may choose to not approve:

- The Financial Inclusion Strategy and the associated payment to the Credit Union.
- The Digital Inclusion Strategy and the associated appointment of a fixed term post.

**Reason For Decision:**

- The Financial Inclusion Strategy will help to support tenants and to mitigate some of the negative impacts associated with welfare reforms.
- The payment to Rainbow Anglia Credit Union will help to support a key partner in promoting financial stability for those tenants without mainstream bank accounts. Improving the quality of life of South Cambridgeshire residents is an important priority for the Council, which includes improving their financial wellbeing whether this involves investing in business to secure jobs, improving work skills or tackling debt.
- The Digital Inclusion Strategy will assist tenants to get the most of their housing service and will also help them to maximise their incomes at a time when welfare benefits are becoming 'digital by default'.
- A full time fixed term post is required to ensure that the work required to take forward the Digital Inclusion action plan is properly resourced.

#### 2. AFFORDABLE HOMES DRAFT SERVICE PLAN 2015/16

The Housing Portfolio Holder **APPROVED** the Affordable Homes Service Plan for 2015/16.

**Other Options Considered:** none specified.

**Reason For Decision:** The draft Service Plan actions for 2015/16 were agreed at the Housing Portfolio Holder meeting on 15 October 2014. These were incorporated into the Affordable Homes service plan template for monitoring throughout the year.

### 3. **EQUALITY SCHEME 2015-2020 (2015-2016 VERSION)**

The Housing Portfolio Holder **ENDORSED** the pre-consultation draft of the Council's Equality Scheme for 2015-2020 (2015-16 version), subject to amendments discussed at the Portfolio Holder meeting and EMT approval.

**Other Options Considered:** None specified.

**Reason For Decision:** An earlier version of the Council's Equality Scheme 2012-2015 was endorsed. An updated version of the Equality Scheme has been developed for 2015-2020, to provide closer alignment with the Corporate Plan for the same period and to reflect the latest data on the community profile of South Cambridgeshire.