

Growth & Prosperity Overview and Scrutiny Panel draft minute

51. PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL HOUSING SERVICES

The Assistant Director for Strategic Housing and the Cabinet Member for Planning, Strategic Housing and Economic Development provided the Panel with an update on Plymouth City Council's Housing Service (as set out in the agenda, pages 123-134).

In response to questions raised it was reported that –

- (i) the Council was due to carry out a strategic Review of Homelessness and Housing Advice Services; it would be beneficial for the Growth and Prosperity Panel to scrutinise this process in order to ensure that both services are fit for purpose, geared to existing demands and address prevention;
- (ii) work undertaken including the delivery of Neighbourhood Management Programmes in North Prospect and Stonehouse and the delivery of the Efford Building Communities Initiative was a success; from feedback received there was an increase in local residents who felt they were able to get involved in local activity and those that were satisfied with their area as a place to live;
- (iii) Devon Home Choice went live last month and was proving very successful as every property advertised had received hundreds of hits on the website; the website also clarified which housing band individuals were on;
- (iv) local housing needs were an important factor to the council and were hoped to be addressed by a development in local housing due to a £21m grant from the Government;
- (v) the Devonport library was to be a priority with kick start funding;

Resolved that –

- (1) the Panel explore and review key areas of strategic housing, specifically Choice Based Letting and the private renting sector in order to identify how both areas are working;
- (2) the Panel host two presentations by Plymouth Community Homes on the delivery of the transfer promises;
- (3) the Panel host a review of Plymouth Community Homes twice yearly;
- (4) a monitoring report on Devon Choice Lettings be incorporated into the Panel's future work programme;
- (5) the Panel receive a report from the Peer Challenge on private rental;
- (6) the Panel lead the scrutiny engagement with all services that fall under strategic housing;
- (7) Strategic Review of Homelessness and Housing Advice services be incorporated into the Panel's future work programme;

(Councillor Thompson declared a personal interest in this item as he was a board member of Plymouth Community Homes)