

COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, 12 March 2024

Bulletin No: IB/1224

INFORMATION ITEM	Pages
<p>1 Delegated Planning Decisions</p> <p>Delegated planning decisions for the week beginning 4 March 2024 are attached. Contact for enquiries: Jean McPherson, Group Manager (Development Management) on jean.mcpherson@ Crawley.gov.uk.</p>	5 - 6
<p>2 Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders</p> <p>The following documents are attached in relation to Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders. The Dingle, West Green (Appendix A). Barnfield Road, Northgate (Appendix B). Princess Road, West Green (Appendix C). 	7 - 14
<p>3 Upcoming Works - Gatwick Road near Radford Road Roundabout</p> <p>As part of West Sussex County Council's continuing efforts to improve the highway network, works are due to commence soon on Gatwick Road near the Radford Road Roundabout, Crawley. The upcoming project is the full refurbishment and LED conversion of an existing signal controlled, toucan crossing.</p> <p>The proposed works are planned to start week commencing 18 March, with the planned end date scheduled for 19 April. However, this is subject to change should unforeseen issues arise onsite, or delays incurred due to adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>Attached to this email is a list of the most frequently asked questions. Please feel free to email lee.maskell@westsussex.gov.uk if you have any questions regarding the proposals.</p>	15 - 20



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4 **Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 - 2024 Action Plan: Annual Review 2023** 21 - 24

The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024 Action Plan: Annual Review 2023 is attached.

5 **Consideration Report: Irrecoverable Debts 2023-2024 (Under £50,000)** 25 - 34

Consideration report FIN/657 of the Head of Corporate Finance is attached for Councillors only.

6 **Significant Operational Decision: Minor Amendments to the Housing Allocations Scheme and Allocation Quotas**

The Council is experiencing significant pressures on its homelessness services, resulting in elevated use of and longer stays in nightly paid temporary accommodation. This is putting the Council's financial position at risk and is a corporate priority to address. Longer stays in temporary accommodation also put unnecessary strain on households who have no other choice but to remain there while waiting for an offer of housing.

On 21 February 2024 Crawley Borough Council declared a housing emergency, advising that the demand for temporary and settled accommodation was consistently higher than the supply, and that the financial impact was unsustainable for the Council.

Section 5.1.1 of the Housing Allocation Scheme (the Scheme) sets out the main quota that describes how available social housing is to be allocated by banding/applicant type. This section of the Scheme advises that the proportion split of the quota will be reviewed on an annual basis and that if the review concludes that a different proportion split may better achieve the aim of balancing the competing needs of those needing housing (such as homeless households, those in reasonable preference groups), it may be amended for the coming year by the Head of Strategic Housing following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing.

Section 5.1.2 of the Housing Allocation Scheme is the temporary sub-quota that can be enacted for up to six-months at a time. The temporary sub-quota in 5.1.2 is an example and has not been amended to date. Continued increase in demand on the service, a decline in the supply of properties available, and a mismatch of properties to households increasingly means that the quota is limited in its ability to be effective. It was proposed that the temporary sub-quota already set out in the Scheme be updated under delegated authority to better address the pressures on the service.

In addition, other minor amendments to the scheme were required so that care leavers with a strong local connection to West Sussex can qualify to join the housing register and that direct lets can be made to homeless households residing in emergency temporary accommodation when the urgent need arises when owed the "relief" duty under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended).

Therefore, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and in accordance with delegation 7.e of the Divisions Sub-Delegation Scheme, on 15 March 2024 the Head of Strategic Housing approved:

- Amendments to the main and temporary sub-quotas and confirmed that they shall take effect on 18/03/2024, including the enactment of the revised temporary sub-quota in section 5.1.2 of the existing Housing Allocation Scheme for a period of up to 6 months
- That care leavers be granted exemption to the local connection criteria under section 2.4.2.1 of the Housing Allocation Scheme
- That section 6 of the Housing Allocation Scheme be amended to allow direct lets to households owed a relief duty residing in temporary accommodation.

Further information is available on request from Nick Hobbs, Housing Needs Manager.

7 **Press Releases**

Press releases are available at www.crawley.gov.uk/news.