

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES CABINET ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD AT COMMITTEE ROOM 5, GUILDHALL, SWANSEA ON
THURSDAY, 10 MARCH 2016 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor R A Clay (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)
D W Cole A M Cook	J P Curtice N J Davies	T J Hennegan G J Tanner

Also Present:
Councillor A S Lewis Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services

Officers:
D Harrison Adaptations Co-ordinator
M Wade Community Housing Service Manager
S Woon Democratic Services Officer

60 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B H Hopkins and H M Morris.

61 **DISCLOSURES OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS.**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

62 **MINUTES:**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Communities Cabinet Advisory Committee held on 11 February, 2016 be approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor A S Lewis, Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services, Councillor P M Meara and K Ross, Frack Free Wales, attendance being recorded.

63 **BME ACCESS TO COMMUNITIES FIRST PROVISION (VERBAL).**

The Chair advised that the Head of Poverty and Prevention had forwarded apologies as she was unable to attend.

RESOLVED that the matter be **DEFERRED** to the next meeting.

64 **DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS (DFG).**

The Community Housing Service Manager, assisted by the Adaptations Co-ordinator, presented a report on Disabled Facilities Grants.

The background; policy context; budget; DFG process; performance and minor adaptations was detailed.

Members' asked questions of the Officers who responded accordingly.

Key issues from discussions included the:

- Recognition of the benefits of 'recycling' adapted properties within the housing stock;
- benefit of home repair loans as a method of maintaining a safe home environment;
- relocation grants;
- increase in waiting times for the 2014-2015 and 2015-16 municipal years;
- potential benefits gained from in-house Housing Occupational Therapist posts;
- need for calculations in respect of the cost of delays to the NHS and Adult Social Services to be undertaken and the role of the Adult Services Monitoring and Performance Scrutiny Panel in obtaining this information
- role of Care and Repair;
- system of prioritisations and burden placed on the NHS when individuals are unable to go back to their homes because they are unsuitable; and
- role of the Cabinet Member for Next Generation services in resisting a cut to the DFG budget.

The Cabinet Member for Next Generation Services explained that whilst there may appear to be cheaper ways of procuring equipment (e.g, a walk-in shower from a local DIY chain) the process for determining individual's needs was an intense, person centred process that was 'tailored' to individual's specific needs.

RESOLVED that:

- a) The report be **NOTED**; and
- b) The Chair speak to the Section 151 Officer to determine a way to quantify the cost of delays with DFG's.

65 **WORK PLAN 2015-2016.**

The Chair referred to the Work Plan and stated that he would consider the manner in which the Committee deals with the two Cabinet Member Portfolios.

RESOLVED that the work plan be **NOTED**.

The meeting ended at 3.13 pm

CHAIR