

Bolsover District Council

Executive

2 March 2015

Housing Department – Quarterly Update

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To inform members of performance within the Housing Department.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 This report should be read alongside the statistical appendix.
- 1.2 Rent arrears have increased during the period. However as the graph in the appendix shows this is typical for the time of year and in previous years arrears have reduced in the last quarter of each year.
- 1.3 We have introduced the option of paying rent weekly by direct debit. This option will be publicised to all tenants as part of the end of year rent increase process.
- 1.4 We have appointed architects to work on the New Bolsover project. Executive gave the Head of Housing the delegated power to make this appointment. After an assessment process including planning and property services, as well as the Housing Department the decision was to award the contract to the Hallsall Lloyd Partnership.
- 1.5 As previously reported to Executive, DCC are consulting on cuts to schemes that were previously funded through the Supporting People programme. This impacted on a number of services offered by this council including the mobile and static warden serviced. DCC have recently announce that they would extend the current contracts for a period of 12 months before making a decision on the longer term future of these projects.
- 1.6 The repairs service will be updating the scheduling software over the next few months. Members should be aware that there may be some disruption to service during certain periods of this upgrade
- 1.7 A new online mutual exchange system is now live. This will be publicised through the next edition of the Homing In magazine. A number of housing providers have

found that mutual exchanges have helped people impacted by the Bedroom tax to move to alternative accommodation.

1.8 Staffing Issues. The following changes have taken place

Julian Handley has been appointed as Housing Assistant (Tenancy) covering Clowne and Shirebrook. The full list of Housing Assistant now in post is:

Housing Assistants (Needs) – Amanda Wilson (Clowne and Shirebrook) Howard Tomlinson (Bolsover and South Normaton)

Housing Assistants (Tenancy) – Julian Handley (Clowne and Shirebrook). The Bolsover and south Normanton post is a job share with Carolyn Goddard and Ruth Smith.

Louise Higgins – has been appointed as Anti-Social Behaviour Case Worker and is due to start her new role on 2nd March 2015

Guy Badwal has been appointed Repairs Innovation Officer and is due to start his new role on 9th March 2015

Eddie Raper has been appointed as Planned Works Inspector and started in this role In December 2014.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 For members to note the contents of this report.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

3.1 Not applicable

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 Not applicable

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

None arising from this report.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

None arising from this report.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

None arising from this report.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That the report is noted.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is one which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
District Wards Affected	
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
1	Statistical Appendix.
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
Report Author	Contact Number
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Report Reference –