

**Housing Overview & Scrutiny**  
**Forward Work Programming Workshop**

**Monday 2nd July 2012 at 10.00 am**  
**Clwyd Committee Room**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillors: George Hardcastle (Chair) Amanda Bragg, David Cox, Peter Curtis, Jim Falshaw, Alison Halford, Brian Lloyd, Mike Reece and Gareth Roberts.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:**

Clare Budden, Head of Housing  
Gavin Griffith, Housing Renewal Manager  
Samantha Roberts, Environment & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator  
Janet Kelly, Overview & Scrutiny Support Officer

**APOLOGIES:**

Councillors Ron Hampson and Rosetta Dolphin

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<p>Sam welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the purpose of the meeting was to draft a Forward Work Programme for the coming year. This would then be shared with the full Committee at its next meeting in September, in which approval would be sought. Consideration would be given to items suggested by Clare and Gavin in addition to the Cabinet Forward Work Programme for the next 6 months.</p> <p>Clare referred to the September meeting and suggested items she would like to be considered :-</p> <p>Local Housing Strategy Anti-Social Behaviour Policy Tenancy Agreements Service Plan for Housing These items have not been to Committee because of the Elections.</p>	
	<p>AH referred to Vehicle Tracking and asked how this was progressing. Sam suggested this included in the 6 monthly updates on Repairs &amp; Maintenance.</p>	

Item	Discussion	Action
	<p>The following items were raised by Members for inclusion in the draft Forward Work Programme:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travis Perkins</li> </ul> <p>Clare confirmed that this could be included within the Repairs &amp; Maintenance Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrears</li> <li>• Grass Cutting</li> </ul> <p>A discussion followed on the grass cutting issue and the different costings, equipment and manpower required. Concerns were raised by Members regarding verges (visibility issues) pensioners' properties (collection of cuttings) and a suggestion that the use of households brown bins could assist. Clare confirmed that different costings are being obtained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sickness</li> </ul> <p>There was a discussion on the reporting of sickness information within the quarterly performance reports and Members felt the figures should include short and long term figures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HRA Subsidy</li> <li>• Welsh Housing Quality Standard</li> </ul> <p>Clare reported there are major changes in social housing which needed discussing and that the July meeting of the Committee had been changed to an All Member workshop to look at the Common Housing Register.</p> <p>Clare suggested the Housing Strategy, Tenancy Agreements and New Tenant Handbook could be grouped together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheltered Housing</li> </ul> <p>This was raised by PJC and Clare confirmed there was a workshop / working group arranged and that an update report will go to Scrutiny, with a suggested date of February.</p> <p>and suggested this be linked to the December meeting with Housing Renewal Area, HRA Subsidy system and Homelessness/Welfare Reform</p> <p>.</p> <p>Sam suggested a Workshop in December/January as updates on the Housing White Paper will be available then.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welfare Reform</li> </ul> <p>Clare updated Members on the Solar Panels Scheme and the issue of Fuel Poverty and suggested this item be placed on the agenda for January / February. Members agreed</p>	

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	<p>and suggested information on uptake by residents, cost effectiveness etc. would be useful. JF suggested figures over a 5 year period because of the current poor summer.</p> <p>AH asked if Water Meter would link into Fuel Poverty, Clare agreed and suggested Tenant &amp; Residents involvement, better stakeholder input and involving young people could also be put in for February's meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private Sector Housing</li> </ul> <p>Gavin commented that this needed to be included early next year.</p> <p>Sam referred to the January meeting which only had Neighbourhood Housing Renewal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gypsies and Travellers</li> </ul> <p>A discussion on this issue and the problems being faced continued and it was suggested to invite David Humphreys to give an update to Committee maybe for the October meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 106 agreements</li> </ul> <p>There was agreement that a workshop would be the best setting for discussing this issue and linked to the Housing White Paper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Government Housing White Paper "Homes for Wales"</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that a workshop would be the best setting for this maybe in December/January.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empty Properties</li> </ul> <p>This could be linked with Private Sector Housing Renewals and suggested it be scheduled for January.</p>	
	<p>Sam thanked the Members for the input and read out what had been discussed</p> <p>September meeting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Housing Strategy</li> <li>Tenancy Agreements</li> <li>Quarterly performance reporting</li> <li>Service Plan</li> </ul>	

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	<p>October meeting:- Repairs and Maintenance (including Travis Perkins, Non-urgent repairs and Vehicle Tracking) Gypsy Travellers Estate Management (including grass cutting And gardening scheme).</p> <p>December meeting:- HRA Subsidy update Homelessness/Welfare Reform</p> <p>December /January : Workshop on Housing White Paper</p> <p>January meeting:- Fuel Poverty (including water meters) Private Sector Housing Renewal &amp; Empty Homes.</p> <p>February meeting:- Tenant Involvement Sheltered Housing</p> <p>April meeting:- Adopted and un-adopted land (including Garage sites) In-house DFG's</p> <p>Anti Social Behaviour Policy – September or October</p> <p>Sickness – Clare suggested more information be included in the quarterly reports and ask for an item for the September meeting to include short and long term absence.</p> <p>It was agreed to keep March clear to allow for additional items.</p> <p>25<sup>th</sup> July – All Member Workshop Common Housing Register</p> <p>meeting closed at 11.20 am</p>	