



## Council 13 December 2011

### CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

#### ***Report by Cllr Anne Gower, Housing, Licensing & Environmental Health Portfolio***

**Portfolio includes:**

- Haverhill
- Haverhill Masterplan;
- Haverhill Town Centre Management;  
Haverhill Youth and Community  
Development;
- Environmental Health
- Licensing; and
- Strategic Housing and Homelessness.

#### **1. Strategic Housing**

- 1.1 Two rural affordable housing schemes in Bardwell and Cavendish are nearing completion and will be ready to occupy by March 2012. At Bardwell children from the local school have been on a site visit and buried a time capsule. Also at Bardwell we have recently held an open meeting to deal with questions regarding the application and allocation process. A similar event is planned for Cavendish to be held at the beginning of December. Both of these schemes will be allocated to households with a local connection to the village, either by current residence, immediate family or work, or through having previously lived there for more than five years, and now wishing to move back.
- 1.2 Matthew Hancock, MP for West Suffolk, recently opened two newly completed supported housing schemes in Haverhill. River House provides 9 one and two bed apartments providing independent living for people with learning disabilities, who receive 24 hour care and support. Horace Eves is a sheltered scheme in Haverhill which has been fully refurbished and modernised, and now provides 17 modern apartments. Part of this scheme, provides accommodation for residents with learning disabilities and very high care needs. Both of these schemes are examples of partnership working, and funding for these schemes came from the Department of Health, Homes and Communities Agency, County Council and Havebury Housing Partnership.
- 1.3 A briefing on the housing reforms was held on 7 November 2011 and was attended by 11 Members.

## 2. Tenancy Strategy

- 2.1 The Localism Act requires Local Authorities to have a Tenancy Strategy. The Borough Council has been preparing for this and we are held up as an example of good practice. As a result officers have been busy attending various conferences and seminars sharing our experience. May I remind Members that consultation on the St Edmundsbury Strategic Tenancy Strategy runs until the end of December, and the consultation document can be viewed at: [www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.stedmundsbury.gov.uk/consultations). The responses we get back to the questions set out in the document will inform and shape the strategy which will be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2012. I would like to encourage you to have a look and to put forward your views on this important Strategy.

## 3. Housing Register (Home-Link)

Home-Link Monthly Stats						
Date	01-Jul-11	01-Aug-11	01-Sep-11	01-Oct-11	01-Nov-11	01-Dec-11
Band A	77	74	84	90	85	83
Band B	186	180	167	165	173	158
Band C	938	945	971	973	1004	1053
Band D	678	680	675	623	622	629
<b>Total</b>	<b>1879</b>	<b>1879</b>	<b>1897</b>	<b>1851</b>	<b>1884</b>	<b>1923</b>
Homeseeker	1453	1444	1458	1430	1454	1476
Transfer	426	425	439	421	430	447
1 Bedroom	1014	1016	1029	1005	1010	1027
2 Bedroom	605	603	593	576	597	625
3 Bedroom	205	205	217	210	215	206
4 Bedroom	50	50	52	53	55	59
5 Bedroom	5	5	6	7	7	6
Single	827	836	850	828	832	859
Couple	274	268	270	263	263	263
Family with children	734	732	736	721	748	753
Other household types	44	43	41	38	41	48
Statutory Homeless	22	23	25	28	23	25
Homeless Prevention	76	73	66	68	68	55
Homeless Other	188	190	191	189	201	206
Over 65s	191	194	194	176	184	188

Home-Link in St Edmundsbury has let 404 properties between November 2010 and October 2011 to: Band A: 214. Band B: 113, Band C: 69, Band D: 8.

## 4. Environmental Health

- 4.1 On Friday 11 November 2011 the food team was notified by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) of a problem associated with a jar of sauce produced at Premier Foods manufacturing site in Bury St Edmunds. An officer visited the site on the Friday and the following Monday to carry out a full investigation. This was done in close co-operation with the FSA, and was only part of the overall investigation, which also included the transport, storage and use of the product in question. Nothing has been found to date to suggest that the problem was associated with the manufacturing process.

## 5. Youth Development

- 5.1 Over 100 young people attended a Street Jam event held on the Market Square in Haverhill on Friday 28 October 2011. The event, which included a street football cage, was well received and was part of a series of events for half term week jointly arranged with Forest Heath District Council.

- 5.2 It is now the end of the season of youth events in Haverhill, almost all of which are provided in partnership with other organisations. One of those partnership projects is the On the Spot vehicle, (the mobile youth provision), which has now been operating for almost 18 months. An evaluation of the project to date is currently being carried out. The vehicle is a great resource and we would like it to be used as often as possible. It is going out one night a week to Kedington, where it is staffed by volunteers from The Church in the Field. I would like the vehicle to be available in other locations in and around Haverhill, but this is dependent on identifying and training suitable volunteers.

## **6. Community Centre Transfer in Haverhill**

- 6.1 The Cabinet has received its report on Community Centre transfers and now we will be looking at ways to engage with Members, community groups, other stakeholders, including the Town Council and other interested parties to take this work forward. Although the two centres in Haverhill are different in terms of the issues involved, I am keen that we work together to overcome problems and provide solutions.