

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER DECISIONS MEETING FOR HOUSING

MONDAY, 6 MARCH 2017

PRESENT: Councillor: L.D. Evans (Executive Board Member).

The following officers were in attendance:

R. Staines, Head of Housing and Public Protection

J. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

1. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

2. LOCAL LETTINGS POLICY FOR OPPORTUNITY STREET, LLANELLI

The Executive Board Member considered the report which introduced a Local Lettings Policy for Opportunity Street, Llanelli along with an Equalities Impact Assessment. The report highlighted how the proposed policy would support the wider vision and objectives for the town centre, the current demand homes in the area, the proposed letting policy and how the policy would be evaluated.

The Executive Board Member was informed that this was one of a number of projects and initiatives that was being developed in order to work towards the Councils commitment of making Llanelli Town Centre a better place to visit, work and live.

It was explained that the local lettings policy was developed to support the main objectives of the Opportunity Street project which included the development of four affordable apartments for rent in the centre of the town. Furthermore, it was noted that the business case submitted to Welsh Government for financial support for the project also included objectives such as, providing quality affordable homes resulting in improved health, providing training and direct employment for construction projects and bringing a sense of community and safe environment through quality design. In addition, the local lettings policy proposed would support these objectives by:

- Helping local people to find quality affordable accommodation who work in the town centre.
- Making Llanelli a more attractive and exciting place to live, work and have fun.
- Increasing the spend in town centre shops and other businesses.
- Reducing the fear of crime in the town centre, particularly after dark.

The Head of Housing and Public Protection informed the Executive Board Member that this letting policy would initially apply only to the four apartments in 10-12 Stepney Street, Llanelli and dependent on its success would be extended to other new developments within the town centre.

Whilst the single person and couple demand for the Elli ward, as at December 2016, was noted, it was anticipated that the number of applicants would increase following a promotional campaign.

It was proposed the Opportunity Street Local Letting Policy included a set of eligibility criteria and that applicants must be age 18 or over, in order to provide a more sustained tenancy. Furthermore, it was proposed an evaluation impact of the policy would take place which included, timely face to face interviews with residents of the apartments, interviews with area housing management staff and consideration of all relevant monitoring data collected by the Town Centre Task Force. It was noted that evaluations of the policy would be scrutinised by the Affordable Homes Delivery Group, Carmarthenshire County Council and the Llanelli Task Force on an annual basis to ensure that the Policy was meeting its aims and continued to be sustainable

It was RESOLVED:

2.1 To receive the report on Local Lettings Policy for Opportunity Street, Llanelli.

2.2 To approve the Local Lettings Policy for Opportunity Street, Llanelli.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE DECISION RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11TH JANUARY 2017

RESOLVED that the decision record of the meeting held on 11th January, 2017 be signed as a correct record.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

DATE