

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

September 2019

Performance Report First Quarter 2019/20

For this financial year the focus is on four themes – housing and homelessness, benefits performance, waste and recycling, and financial performance of investment assets.

Housing & Waste Collection

- (a) Days taken to process new housing benefits claims:
Target 28, Result 18, lower is better.
- (b) Days taken to process changes to existing claims:
Target 14, Result 16. Target not achieved.
- (c) Average weeks households in temporary accommodation.
This measurement is the average number of weeks that households in temporary accommodation have remained in temporary accommodation.
The target for 2019/20 is 10 weeks but the result at the end of the first quarter was 17 weeks. Target not achieved.
- (d) Missed bins. For every 100,000 collection the target for 2019/20 is 120 missed bins per 100,000 collection. The result for the first quarter is 207 missed bins. However, this is a slight improvement on the final quarter for last year and this is expected to improve as the new contract sets in.

Percentage Return on Investment Assets

The target for 2019/20 is 6% return on investment. The current forecast result is 6.93%.

Provision of Temporary Accommodation

In July 2018 the Housing Issues & Finish Group made a series of recommendations to Cabinet to acquire emergency and temporary accommodation through the purchase of property for conversion or delivering new build temporary accommodation and purchasing accommodation for those in housing need i.e. those already on the Housing Register.

The purchase of properties to include a mixture of both houses and flats. This will provide the Council with more control over the quality of temporary accommodation available locally as well as being able to achieve greater control of revenue costs. The £3m. investment will enable the Council to reduce its costs by approximately £70,000 annually excluding the impact of any appreciation or depreciation in value.

Community Grants Scheme

The Council Community Grants Scheme (CCGS) makes provision for up to £130,000 per annum to be made available to community groups or organisations that meet the grant criteria.

The Panel considered round 1 of 2 rounds made annually. From a total of £94,488 requested, £67,541 was approved. Amongst those receiving a grant was Beckley Parish Council of £18,500 towards transforming the old tennis court for use as a multi games area (MUGA) at a total cost of £37,000. A further £5,000 was granted to Beckley Village Hall to replace and upgrade the kitchen at a total cost of £25,442.

VE Day 2020 Celebrations

To support this activity the Council is providing match funding, pound for pound relevant expenditure to a maximum of £500 of grant funding per application. A total fund of £10,000 is set aside for this purpose and this will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Application forms are available from the Community Grants Scheme Office, Rother District Council, Town Hall, Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex TN39 3JX or email communitygrants@rother.gov.uk.

Councillors Tony Ganly and Martin Mooney
Northern Rother Ward.