

REPORT OF CABINET

(Meeting held on 2 May 2018)

1. DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS POLICY (MINUTE NO.88)

The Cabinet has adopted changes to the Council's Discretionary Housing Payments Policy to reflect changes in legislation, mainly relating to the introduction of Universal Credit. The Discretionary Payments Scheme is locally administered and is designed to help claimants on low incomes who have a shortfall between the amount of support they receive through Housing Benefit or Universal Credit and their actual rent, with that shortfall causing hardship. Government funding for the scheme has been reduced from £324,613 in 2017/18 to £278,541 in 2018/19. Last year all the funding was used, through 765 awards. Members have welcomed the help that is being given to the most vulnerable local residents in order to help them remain in their accommodation.

In future it has been agreed that an annual report will be submitted to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Panel on funding allocations, policy delivery and appeals.

2. INTERNET OF THINGS (MINUTE NO.89)

The Cabinet has agreed, in principle, to allow aerials to be placed on the Council's buildings to allow a local company to establish an "Internet of Things". The aerials are 60 cm tall, of narrow diameter, pole mounted with a base station. The aerials support a Low-Power Wide-Area Network for functions such as asset tracking, remote monitoring of utilities; and the monitoring of equipment used in supporting elderly or vulnerable adults in their homes. In addition to offering potential applications for the Council's business, this should provide an additional income stream.

The Cabinet is pleased to support a local business that has the potential to assist other businesses and service providers, to the benefit of local residents.

Further investigations will be carried out to ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place to protect the Council's interests. Subject to the satisfactory outcome of those investigations, the Service Manager, Estates and Valuation has been authorised to agree the suitability and location of the proposed sites, to secure all necessary authorisations and assessments, and to agree a 5 year licence to permit the installations in accordance with the terms set out in the report to the Cabinet (Report Item 6). All town and parish councils in the District will be told about this new potential resource and a progress report will be submitted to the Cabinet in 6 month's time.

**COUNCILLOR B RICKMAN
CHAIRMAN**