

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD 5 MARCH 2019 – UPDATE ON RECENT WORK OF TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

Members had received a presentation on Performance Indicators for Quarter Two; and noted that three indicators were off target and one was on target.

The Sub-Committee noted that a new process had been put in place to deal with Housing Complaints to bring about improvements to each of the service areas in the Service and that all Stage 2 complaint responses were signed off by the Chief Executive and that Case officers were in regular contact with complainants.

The Service was reviewing its contract management approach, against other repairs services, in order to determine a new line of approach. The lack of improvement in performance against the KPI had led to a new improvement plan being developed and the performance would be monitored. Breyer had advised that their new plan should result in improved performance.

Members received a report that outlined the challenges faced by the service in the undertaking of their work, with a specific focus upon Development Management and planning application handling.

The Sub-Committee received a presentation on the future of Chafford Sports Complex and were advised that the complex and its land were now owned by the Harris Academy. Due to the dual use, the complex did not meet with current expectations for quality of leisure facilities and a significant capital investment would be required to modernize the complex.

The Sub-Committee was informed that following the reduction in Government funding by about £29m to the Council since 2014/15, the Council faced a funding gap of £37.8m over the next four years. The options for Chafford Sports Complex were being reviewed to avoid the funding gap increasing.

The Sub-Committee had agreed to establish a Topic Group to scrutinise Housing Issues – Repairs in particular in the near future.

Councillor Keith Darvill,

Chairman, Towns & Communities Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee