

PRIVATE SECTOR FORUM MEETING

Thursday 14th February 2019

In Attendance:

M Rehman (RPC)
M Green (Belvoir)
Eddie Hamilton
Cllr Tatchell
Cllr J Harbour

Officers

Paul Gatrell
Amjad Rana

1.	<p>Apologies: V Robinson (Beehive) Clare Jackson</p>	
2.	<p>Housing Benefit AR updated the group.</p> <p>17 days on average to process a claim. If all the information is supplied with the claim – processed in 3 to 4 days. Change of circumstances – 4 days.</p> <p>Housing benefit is still applicable to: People on state pension credit. People with more than 2 children. In supported accommodation. In Temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Discretionary Housing payment is still available.</p> <p>Housing Advice due to new legislation can step in sooner to prevent homelessness in relation to the service of section 21 notices.</p>	
3	<p>Selective Licensing</p> <p>PG went through the Selective Licensing Report that went to the Executive on the 11th February 2019 with the group.</p> <p>The full report was passed round to the group and the Recommendations were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the Executive approves the areas detailed in plans A to D and Street lists A to D as selective licensing areas for a maximum period of 5 years for the reasons detailed in Appendix A, Burnley Borough Council's Proposal to Approve Selective Licensing Areas.2. That the Executive approves the submission of an application to the Secretary of State for the confirmation of the Trinity, Gannow, Queensgate, Daneshouse and Stoneyholme selective licensing designation areas.3. That the Executive approve the Fee Structure and Charging Policy in Appendix B to this report.4. That the Executive approves the staffing structure in Appendix C to this report.	

	<p>5. That the Executive approves the Licensing Conditions detailed in Appendix D to this report.</p>	
4	<p>Rogue Landlord Funding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the middle of January 2019 we were informed that we had successfully bid for the Government's rogue landlord funding which has to be delivered by the end of March 2019. There are two parts to the funding. 2. Part 1 is an officer building intelligence with a Police Analysts on landlords who may be suspected of organised crime. 3. Part 2 is proactive inspections targeted mainly in the Burnley Wood area. A minimum of 60 inspections will be undertaken before the end of March 2019. Inspections are being targeted at those properties that are not licensed and that externally look in a poor condition. 4. The proactive inspections will support selective licensing as well as an empty homes programme that Calico Homes have secured funding for. Calico are targeting Burnley Wood to bring around 35 homes back into use. 5. A further update on the project will be brought to the next forum. 	
5	<p>Council Tax Increase in relation to Empty Properties</p> <p>PG updated the group on recent changes to the Empty Homes Council Tax premium.</p>	
	<p>Dates of Meetings</p> <p>The group was asked if future meetings could be rearranged to be held on either a Tuesday or a Wednesday to fit in with Council Officers availability.</p> <p>Future meetings to be confirmed.</p>	