

**A MEETING OF THE HOUSING BOARD
WAS HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Councillors Mrs Batty, Beavis, Burgess, Farr, Foster-Reed, Hammond, Hook (substituting for Councillor Murphy), Hutchison, Mrs Jones, Mitchell, Mrs Morgan, Pepper, Philpott, Scard and Westerby

PART II

5. HOUSING SERVICE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Housing setting out a general update of the Housing Service and requesting that proposals relating to the interim Housing accommodation at Walpole Park be considered.

Members wished to acknowledge and give thanks to the Housing Department for maintaining high service levels across their remit during the difficult Covid situation, in particular in the handling of the "Everyone in Scheme" which had created more cases than first expected.

Members also wished to thank local residents for their understanding whilst the Pods have been in place.

Members were advised that as the 36, currently void, properties became available they would be allocated to the priority cases on the waiting list.

Members welcomed the opportunity afforded by the Government scheme to resolve the homeless issue in the Borough, and hoped that working with partnership agencies would be beneficial.

Members recognised that the Pods would gradually reduce in number over the coming months, and did not want them to be considered a permanent solution for the homeless, but wanted the facility to remain available if the winter months were particularly harsh, or should a second wave of Covid occur.

Members were advised that a leafleting campaign was about to take place aimed at private landlords to encourage them to approach the Council to rent out their empty properties. Also a survey would be available on the website encouraging local home owners to consider renting out their available properties through the Council.

RESOLVED:

- That the Board approves the phasing out of the interim Housing accommodation at Walpole Park together with associated services.
- That the report of the Head of Housing be noted.

CHAIRMAN

Concluded at 6.24 pm