

## **COUNCIL**

**30 JUNE 2015**

### **ITEM 6 – QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

#### **QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR R ADAMS TO COUNCILLOR R D BAYLISS**

The Portfolio holder will be aware that the sheltered housing scheme in the Broom Leys Ward known as Greenacres which contains 22 flats has been empty and decommissioned since September 2011. Will the Portfolio Holder agree that this is an unsatisfactory state of affairs and explain to this Council what he proposes to do about it?

#### **RESPONSE FROM COUNCILLOR R D BAYLISS**

The Greenacres sheltered housing scheme has been empty for some time as a result of the design of the flats proving to be unpopular with applicants on our housing register. In response to this changing pattern of demand, Cabinet considered a report regarding the scheme's future in 2011, and made the decision to decommission it.

A number of alternative future uses for the building have since been explored in detail, including a proposal to develop a community scheme with the local Tenants and Residents Association, and redevelopment opportunities with Housing Association partners. However, these options did not prove to be financially viable at the time.

The site at Greenacres was examined in the feasibility report from the consultancy, Housing Quality Network (referred to below in the reply to Cllr Clarke's question). I am pleased to report that the future plans for this building will be addressed as part of our Asset Management Strategy which will be presented to Cabinet in September 2015. The Cabinet report will integrate our ambitions with respect to new build Council housing into a wider asset management strategy, and present a positive way forward for the Greenacres site.