

ACTION LOG – CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RESPONSE DOCUMENT

MEETING MINUTE NO.	ACTION	RESPONSE	COMPLETED?	
1	61 – Asset Management Strategy	Cabinet to respond to the Committee’s recommendations (made to Cabinet on 19.01.2023) on the Asset Management Strategy		Target date: June 2023
2	71 – QPR 2022/23 Q3 Report	The reasons why the number of universal credit / housing benefit claimants was lower, given the difficult economic conditions	<p>The Executive Director Finance has provided the following response:</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council publish monthly data on claimant counts – and all Councils in Staffordshire have seen a fall in claimant numbers since March – explained by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The strong decline in claimants seen during April is a return to the long-term labour market recovery we were witnessing going into the festive period with declining work related benefit claimants and is reflective of the record number of job vacancies currently available across the full economy with clear 	Completed.

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		<p>job opportunities for residents in a number of our priority and locally important sectors such as manufacturing, construction, logistics, health & social care and hospitality.</p> <p>In terms of Discretionary Housing payments, a similar question regarding the drop in levels was asked in the September 2022 meeting and the following response was provided:</p> <p>Discretionary Housing Payments (DHPs) – explanation for the drop in approvals of these payments and requested that future reports show percentage figures (as well as absolute figures). Witten update to be circulated.</p> <p>The Discretionary Housing Payments grant funding we receive from the Government has reduced from £130k to £96k.</p> <p>This has meant that we have had to refine and review the criteria in which we award these payments to reflect this reduction. (An example of this is requests for proof of maintenance and bank accounts and many have not provided details back to us. Therefore, the claim has been closed).</p> <p>We are constantly looking at the situation as it stands with our residents to ensure that the pot of money is maximised which ensures that the</p>	

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		residents most in need receive this valuable support. Yes, acknowledged reports will include percentage figures as well as absolute figures.	
3	72 – Leaseholder Charges Communication working group	Recommendations to be presented to Cabinet – 23.02.2023 meeting	

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