



Cllr Norma Harrington
**Outer North East
Community Committee**

Councillor Debra Coupar
Deputy Leader
Executive Member for Communities

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4th March 2020

Dear Councillor Harrington

Re: ONE Housing Advisory Panel (HAP)

Thank you for your recent letter highlighting to me concerns about the Outer North East Housing Advisory Panel (HAP).

If I can share the following to help give you and your fellow Community Committee Members some reassurance.

Andrew Kyrover, Tenant Engagement Officer, is the lead officer for the ONE HAP and his support and management of the HAP is one of his key priorities. Andrew has now been in place for a number of months since Graham Berwick left the role last summer. After a period of initial support and familiarisation he is now more integrated with teams and others in the community to be better placed to work with HAP members to seek and develop funding proposals in the future.

I am aware that the August and December meetings were cancelled – for the August meeting a staff member was not available due to leave, and the December meeting was cancelled at the request of the Chair, due to the time of year and no new bids being made. It is not envisaged that any further meetings will be cancelled. The HAP will shortly be planning its meeting schedule for the year ahead, as we enter the new financial year, and Housing's support to the HAP will be planned to ensure that the HAP is proactively supported during the coming year.

Since April 2019, the HAP has committed just over half of its £36k budget allocation for the year on ten projects, with two applications to a value of £10.5k supported at the meeting a few days ago. I'm advised an additional meeting is also scheduled for the 19th March to help make up for any break in meetings earlier in the year. At the March meeting, the service is expecting to table a number of funding proposals for projects or activities across the three wards.

Subject to the HAP's support, this will reduce further the current remaining budget of £16.4k before the end of the financial year. However, should the HAP have any uncommitted funds after the March meeting, this can be carried forward into next year's budget so funding is not lost for the local area.

As with all HAPs, there is the opportunity to jointly fund activities or projects using both HAP and Community Committee resources, and if there are any proposals to this effect please do highlight this to Andrew and with local Communities Team staff for them to take forward, especially relevant perhaps when the budget is renewed in April.

The Service Manager for the Tenant Engagement Team has offered to meet with you to talk about ensuring good levels of support, to take forward any project ideas or joint funding opportunities and to explore other ways of working we could adopt to ensure good communication and integration between the HAP and the Community Committee.

Please let me know, or contact Ian Montgomery directly on ian.montgomery@leeds.gov.uk or 07891 271612 if this is something you would like to arrange.

I trust this helps go some way to allay your concerns and assure you of the continued support for the HAP, but please do contact me if you have any further queries.

Regards

Councillor Debra Coupar
Deputy Leader
Executive Member for Communities