

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

10th March 2022

OPEN

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Rhind (Chair) and Councillor Mulgrew (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Richards, Dunn, and Shepherd

Conservative Group

Councillors Ackroyd, Corbin, Ford, Haines, and Smith

Independent Group

Councillors Dawson and Roberts.

Non-Grouped

Councillor Wheelton

HCS/78 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that an apology had been received from Councillor Churchill (Non-Grouped).

HCS/79 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that declarations of interest had been received from Councillor Smith in reference to HSC/90 and HSC/83 by virtue of being a County Councillor.

The Committee was informed that declarations of interest had been received from Councillor Ford in reference to HSC/90 by virtue of being a County Councillor.

HCS/80 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Public had been received.

HCS/81 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no questions from Members of the Council had been received.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/82 **CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24: PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020-21
QUARTER 3 – (1 APRIL TO 31 DECEMBER)**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) introduced the report to the Committee and advised that 100 per cent of Our Environment and 82 percent of Our People indicators were on track to achieve their annual target and noted that those indicators in red were moving in a positive direction with

The Head of Housing advised the Committee that the red Relet indicator was improving. The Head of Housing outlined the process of re-letting and noted that the average let time was between 125 and 208 days.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) informed the Committee that pressure on the housing budget and risks associated with it had been considered and noted that work undertaken to make sure properties were in a safe and liveable condition had been challenging at times.

Members raised concerns regarding the increase in homelessness and issues regarding local connection rules, an abandoned property and the average time taken to relet Council homes. The Head of Housing advised the Committee that prevention of homeless would be prioritised as there were more people coming forward for support and informed the Committee that there was some funding available to help with private sector rent arrears. The Head of Housing confirmed that local connection rules were complicated and advised that the abandoned property issue was problematic as it would need to be demonstrated to a judge that the resident had no intention to return to the property.

Members raised queries regarding the issue of difficult to let properties. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) clarified that a number of the properties required redevelopment and some were subject to anti-social behaviour which made the properties less attractive to potential tenants.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 That the Committee approved progress against performance targets set out in the Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024.***
- 1.2 That the Committee reviewed the Risk Register for the Committee's Services.***

HCS/83 **CONTRIBUTION TO ACTIVE DERBYSHIRE**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented to report to the Committee seeking approval for an annual contribution and the development of two year Service Level Agreement.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee approved the Council's commitment to Active Derbyshire for 2022-2024 as set out in the Service Level Agreement (SLA) attached at Appendix A.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved a financial contribution to Active Derbyshire for 2022-23 of £12,191 to support the delivery of outcomes set out in an SLA with the Council.***
- 1.3 The Committee approved that delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director (Service Delivery), in consultation with the Chair of the Committee to sign any subsequent agreements necessary to ensure the delivery of the projects set out in the SLA.***

HCS/84 **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP GRANTS SCHEME**

The Section 106 Officer presented to report to the Committee and advised of two inaccuracies within the report which did not affect the recommendations as the figures in Section 4 to be approved were correct. The four successful applications were outlined for the Committee.

Members commended the report and the excellent outcome for the applicants.

RESOLVED:

The Committee approved the recommendations of the Community and Environmental Partnerships Grant Scheme Assessment Panel, to award grants as detailed in Section 4 of the report.

HCS/85 **TREE, WOODLANDS AND HEDGEROW MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to the Committee and advised that part one of the report was the endorsement and the second part highlighted the risks and opportunities. The Committee was advised that the Council's insurers recommended moving away from a timebound assessment of trees and to use a Red, Amber, Green (RAG) rating system to highlight proposed works. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) explained that the RAG rating applied had identified a significant number of trees in the red category and that funding required from the ground's maintenance reserve would need approval from the Finance and Management Committee.

Councillor Shepherd welcomed the report and the policy relating to the planting of replacement trees when it was necessary for one to be felled.

Councillor Corbin asked that communication with residents regarding tree works could be improved.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved the adoption of the Tree, Woodland and Hedgerow Policy as per Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the report.

1.2 The Committee approved that the resource implications outlined in the report be referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.

HCS86 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented to report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

HCS/87 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

The Chairman may therefore move:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the

remainder of the Meeting as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that there would be disclosed exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule 12A of the Act indicated in brackets after each item.

ANY EXEMPT QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11

The Committee was informed that no exempt questions from Members of the Council had been received.

HOUSING DIRECT LABOUR ORGANISATION (DLO) TEAM – MODERNISING EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 19:00 hours

COUNCILLOR G RHIND

CHAIR