

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

18th November 2021

PRESENT:

Labour Group

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

Conservative Group

Councillors Ackroyd, Churchill, Ford, Haines, Smith and Watson (substitute for Councillor Corbin).

Independent Group

Councillors Roberts.

In Attendance

Councillor Wheelton

HCS/42 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor Corbin (Conservative Group) and Councillor Dawson (Independent Group)

HCS/43 **TO RECEIVE THE OPEN MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS**

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 3rd June 2021 and 19th August were noted and approved as a true record and signed by the Chair.

HCS/44 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee noted that no Declarations of Interest had been received

HCS/45 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10**

The Committee was informed that no questions from members of the public had been received.

HCS/46 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PURSUANT TO 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/47 CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24 - PERFORMANCE REPORT (2020-2021 QUARTER 2 – (1 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER)

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) introduced the report to the Committee noting that six of the seven key performance measures were on track and the seventh related to the reallocation of Council homes. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) explained that a risk had been removed as dealing with Universal Credit had now been mainstreamed and part of normal work with residents.

The Head of Housing explained that there were 430 properties ready to be let, that work was being carried out on 56 and the rest were properties that had been vacant since the end of September. The Committee was informed that following the pandemic good progress had been made and the service had returned to more normal housing issues.

Members raised queries regarding a timeline for the red performance measure to be on track and the problems letting bungalows and flats.

The Head of Housing informed the Committee that the red performance measure on the whole would not be expected to be on track by the end of the year but by providing monthly figures then these may start to be green sooner. The Committee was informed that there had been a long-standing issue letting some of the over 60s one-bedroom upstairs flats and that some bungalows were in rural locations which made them difficult to let.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) confirmed that there was an issue matching demand to need and that work was in the pipeline to develop high quality housing regarding those properties that had been difficult to let.

RESOLVED:-

1.1 The Committee approved progress against performance targets set out in the Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024.

1.2 The Committee reviewed the Risk Register for the Committee's services.

HCS/48 RECRUITMENT OF BIKEABILITY CO-ORDINATOR

The Head of Cultural and Community Services presented the report to the Committee and explained how the additional post would increase access to the Bikeability scheme across South Derbyshire schools.

RESOLVED:-

The Committee approved the recruitment of a Bikeability Co-ordinator, within the Active Communities and Health Unit of Cultural and

Community Services. The new post will coordinate and deliver the South Derbyshire Active Schools Partnership's (SDASP) Bikeability programme.

HCS/49 **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIPS GRANT SCHEME**

The Head of Cultural and Community Services presented the report to the Committee and explained how the proposals would provide clarification and guidance to the assessment panel and applicants regarding the security of tenure required to secure a grant in the future.

RESOLVED:-

1.1 The Committee approved additional guidance notes and set new criteria to support applications to the Community and Environmental Partnerships Grant Scheme (CEPGS) whereby:

1.1.1 Any project receiving funding related to the improvement of premises, the applicant should either hold the freehold or have a lease with a minimum security of tenure.

1.1.2 The security of tenure held by applicants for projects requesting grants up to £10,000 should be a minimum of seven years remaining at the point of project completion and for grant requests between £10,001 up to the maximum of £25,000 there should be a minimum of 15 years remaining at the point of project completion.

HCS/50 **HOUSING DOMESTIC ABUSE POLICY**

The Head of Housing presented the report to the Committee following consultation of the draft policy. It was noted that the report included comments received during consultation.

RESOLVED:-

The Committee approved the Housing Domestic Abuse Policy following the outcome of public consultation on the draft.

HCS/51 **BID FOR GOVERNMENT ROUGH SLEEPER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME FUNDING**

The Head of Housing presented the report to the Committee and explained how it fitted with the empty property picture and that the delivery by Trent and Dove would be via a service level agreement, with the Council retaining the landlord function for the properties provided as part of the project. The Head of housing noted that the intention of the programme was to help people out of the cycle of homelessness.

Members acknowledged the amount of work involved by officers in tackling homelessness for some.

RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 The Committee retrospectively approved the bid for Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme Funding.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved the contribution by the Council of three one bedroom properties to the programme.***

HCS/52 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee Work Programme was presented to Members by the Strategic Director (Service Delivery).

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

HCS/53 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)**

RESOLVED:-

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.

MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the Meetings held on 3rd June 2021 and 19th August 2021 were received.

TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11

The Committee was informed that no questions had been received.

HOUSING OPTIONS APPRAISAL AND THE SALE OF SURPLUS LAND AT SMALLTHORN PLACE

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

The Meeting terminated at 18:30 hours.

COUNCILLOR G RHIND

CHAIR