

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

13th March 2014

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Hewlett (Chairman) and Councillors Ford, Harrison, Murray, Mrs. Plenderleith (substitute for Councillor Lemmon), Smith and Mrs Watson (substitute for Councillor Mrs. Hood).

Labour Group

Councillors Frost, Mrs. Heath, Mulgrew, Rhind, Richards and Shepherd.

In attendance

Councillor Atkin (Conservative).

HCS/41. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Hood and Lemmon (Conservative Group).

HCS/42. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Special Budget Meeting held on 14th January 2014 and the Meeting on the 6th February 2014, were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

HCS/43. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Richards declared an interest in Minute Number HCS/49, as a Member of the Planning Committee.

Councillor Shepherd declared an interest in Minute Number HCS/49, as a Member of the Planning Committee.

Councillor Ford declared an interest in Minute Number HCS/49, as a Member of the Planning Committee.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/44. **LEASEHOLDER MANAGEMENT POLICY**

A report was submitted to inform and seek member's approval of the new South Derbyshire Leaseholder Management Policy which brings together current practice and legal duties into one summary document for leaseholders.

It was reported that there would be a 4 week consultation process if the draft policy is approved by the committee. Leaseholders, tenants' groups and other stakeholders will be able to make comment on the proposed policy. If any objections were received during the consultation period a further report would be brought back before the committee for consideration.

Members asked questions of the Director of Housing and Environmental Services and asked for confirmation that no. 6.1 of the policy relating to equality and fairness reflects the requirements of the Equalities Act. It was confirmed that the amendments would be made to the policy.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That Members approve in principle the new South Derbyshire DC Leaseholder Management Policy ahead of a 4 week consultation programme with leaseholders and other stakeholders.***
- (2) That if no material changes are proposed following the consultation process, as assessed by the Chairman of the Committee, the Leaseholder Management Policy is adopted and implemented immediately. Any proposed material changes arising out of the consultation to be the subject of a further Committee report.***

HCS/45. **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL DISABLED ADAPTATION SERVICE**

A report was submitted for Members to approve the proposal to no longer means test Council tenants in need of adaptations as set out in the Disabled Adaptations Policy for Council Tenants. It was reported that in 2002 means testing was introduced therefore tenants would be required to pay a contribution towards the adaptation. Some works are not exempt from VAT and over the past 5 years the amount of VAT paid on Disabled Facility's Grants for council properties amounted to £6,689, as a grant the Council cannot recover the VAT. Finally it was reported that, in practice it is costing the Council more money in VAT than it receives in tenant contributions.

The new policy would refresh the existing framework and remove the requirement for means testing.

RESOLVED:-

That Members approve the proposal to no longer means test Council tenants in need of adaptations as set out in the Disabled Adaptations Policy for Council Tenants in Annex A of the report

HCS/46. **CORPORATE PLAN 2009-14: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (1 OCTOBER – 31 DECEMBER 2013)**

A report was submitted which detailed achievements for the quarter ending 31st December 2013, in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2009 – 14. Full details were provided in appendices attached to the report, and included progress against Corporate Plan Key Projects and Corporate Plan Performance Measures.

The Director of Housing and Environmental Services gave an update on the abandoned tasks, performance against targets and targets at risk of failure for the last quarter.

Members asked questions of the Director of Housing and Environmental Services.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That Members note the progress and achievements during the period 1st October to 31st December 2013, in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2009/14.***
- (2) That Members review where progress has failed to achieve the specified target and consider the adequacy of the remedial action taken.***

HCS/47. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members were asked to consider the updated work programme and review its content where appropriate.

RESOLVED:-

That the updated work programme be approved.

HCS/48. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (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.

At 6.15pm Councillors Ford, Richards and Shepherd left the meeting for item no.14.

MINUTES

The Exempt Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th February 2014 were received.

LAND AT MIDWAY (Paragraph 3)

Members approved the sale of residential land and construction of leisure facilities.

J. HEWLETT

CHAIRMAN