

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

17 November 2022

OPEN

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Rhind (Chair) and Councillor M. Mulgrew (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Dunn, Richards, Shepherd and Southerd (Substitute for Councillor Heath)

Conservative Group

Councillors Corbin, Ford, Patten, Redfern and Smith

In attendance

Councillor Wheelton,

HCS/38 APOLOGIES

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor Heath (Labour Group) and Councillor Lemmon (Conservative Group) Roberts (Independent Group)

HCS/39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Committee was informed that Councillor Ford declared a person interest in item HCS/45 by virtue of being a County Councillor.

HCS/40 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/41- 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/42 CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24: PERFORMANCE REPORT (2022-2023 QUARTER 2 – (1 APRIL TO 30 SEPTEMBER))**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) introduced the report noting that relets was the only measure in the red and that improvement was expected. Changes to the to the Risk Register were also noted for the Committee.

The Head of Housing addressed the Committee regarding the reletting of Council Properties and explained that the issue had been exacerbated by the shortage of skilled labour, the condition of vacated properties and the introduction of a new system in relation to gas and electrical safety checks and certification. The Committee was also informed that the contractor improving the turn around time for vacated properties and the Council could claim for loss of rental income if targets were not met. The Head of Housing also confirmed that progress was being made and that a plan was being developed to make further improvements.

Members sought clarity regarding timelines for the plan and the improvement of relet times.

The Head of Housing confirmed that the report regarding the plan would be before the Committee in April 2023 and that work was being undertaken to improve the turnaround relet times and the back log of void properties was expected to be dealt with before the end of the financial year. The Committee was informed that the use of new software could enable times to be allocated to each process related to the reletting of properties but caveated this by explaining that they were not always linear and that repairs were only part of the process.

Members requested information to demonstrate how the number of relet days would be brought down.

The Head of Housing confirmed that a chart containing the information requested would be shared with Members in the near future.

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/43 SWADLINCOTE WOODLANDS UPDATE

The Head of Cultural and Community Services presented the report to the Committee and summarised the progress for the application for Local Nature Reserve status along with an update on improved signage. The Head of Cultural and Community Services sought approval for the recommendations within the report.

Members thanked the Head of Cultural and Community Services for the speed in which this had been dealt with speed dealt and acknowledged the benefits this would bring for the residents.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 Members noted that the Local Nature Reserve status for Swadlincote Woodlands had been granted and the Committee approved protection of Swadlincote Woodlands with a Fields in Trust deed of dedication designation.***

HCS/44 REPURPOSING OF SHOPMOBILITY GRANT TO SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CVS

The Community Partnership Officer presented the report to the Committee and outlined the request from South Derbyshire CVS following a decision to provide a wider more accessible service that included a mini bus service one day week responsive to needs if bookings which would be a change to the purpose of grant. It was noted that the service was originally designed to include 5 mobility scooters but now the proposal was to keep 1 as demand had dropped however this could only be secured if the Council could provide a storage facility in the Town Centre.

Members supported the proposal and stated that weekend access to the scooter should be considered.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee considered the proposal (attached to the report as Appendix 1) from South Derbyshire CVS to repurpose the Shopmobility Service into a wider, more inclusive accessible community transport service.***
- 1.2 The Committee accepted the proposal in order that a new Service Level Agreement be drawn up and the 2022/23 grant of £12,123 (previously paid to South Derbyshire CVS to operate the Shopmobility service) be paid to support the delivery of the widened accessible community transport service on a trial basis for a year.***

1.3 The Committee approved that a limited Mobility Scooter Service be retained on a trial basis as part of the repurposed Shopmobility proposal.

1.4 The Committee considered the request from South Derbyshire CVS for secure storage for one mobility scooter at the Council Offices or other suitable Council premises in Swadlincote town centre (If there was a desire from Committee for South Derbyshire CVS to continue with a limited Mobility Scooter service).

HCS/45 **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP GRANT SCHEME**

The Community Partnership Officer presented the report to the Committee and summarised the applications for which grant approval was sought.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee accepted the recommendations of the Community and Environmental Partnership Grant Scheme Assessment Panel, to award grants as detailed in section 4 of the report.

HCS/46 **ADOPTION OF MEMORIAL BENCH SCHEME**

The Head of Cultural and Community Services addressed the Committee and outlined the report and sought support for the recommendation with in the report.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee supported the introduction of a Memorial Bench Scheme for District Council managed cemeteries, parks and green spaces.

HCS/47 **BEAT THE STREET**

The Head of Cultural and Community Services presented the report to the Committee outlining the activities during the initial 12 month period that intended to encourage school children to take part in active travel and to visit outdoor places of interest. It was noted that the scheme had been endorsed by Sport England who had funded 40% of the costs. The Committee was informed that the launch of the scheme would coincide with the 2023 Easter Holidays and the opening of Cadley Park.

Members commended the report and fully supported the scheme and felt that information should be shared with all Members of the Council.

Members raised queries regarding replacement cards.

The Head of Cultural and Community Services explained that there would be an App that cards would be linked to and where replacement cards could be requested as well as a facility in libraries for new cards

RESOLVED:

1.1 The Committee approved the financial contribution from earmarked reserves to fund the 12 month physical activity and active travel intervention project called Beat the Street.

HCS/48 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented to report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme. For 11

HCS49 **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.

PREMISES IN MELBOURNE

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

LONG TERM LEASE TO EGGINTON PARISH COUNCIL

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

LAND AT NETHERSEAL

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

**DELETION OF QUANTITY SURVEYOR POST CREATION OF FINANCE
AND CONTRACTS OFFICER**

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 19:15 hours

COUNCILLOR G RHIND

CHAIR