

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

20th April 2017

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Hewlett (Chairman), Councillor Smith (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Billings, Mrs Hall (substituting for Councillor Grant), MacPherson, Muller, Stanton (substituting for Councillor Mrs Coyle) Mrs Wyatt

Labour Group

Councillors Rhind, Richards, Mrs Stuart and Taylor

In attendance

Councillors Atkin (Conservative Group)

HCS/89 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coe, Mrs Coyle and Grant (Conservative Group).

HCS/90 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 10th January 2017 and 2nd February 2017 were noted and approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

HCS/91 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

HCS/92 **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/93 **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.

HCS/94 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no Overview and Scrutiny Reports to be submitted.

Councillor Taylor joined the Meeting at 6.10pm

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/95 **PRESENTATION BY ACTIVE NATION ON THE LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT**

The Director of Community and Planning Services introduced Shaun Tasker (Contract Manager) and James Dobson (Centre Manager) from Active Nation who presented a short video outlining the key achievements and accreditations received over the past year. The video was accompanied by a copy of a report.

Members commended the video and congratulated Active Nation on their achievements. Councillor Richards queried whether the closure of the squash courts at Green Bank Leisure Centre had resulted in an increase of usage at the Etwall Leisure Centre. The Contract Manager confirmed that combined with the refurbishment of facilities in Repton, the usage of the Etwall facilities had increased. The Councillor sought clarification on whether those using the squash courts at Etwall were travelling from the urban core. The Contract Manager advised that information relating to the demographics of users would be provided to the Member in due course.

Whilst commending Active Nation for their work, Councillor Billings sought clarification on the prioritisation of future development projects listed in the report, particularly the car park provision at Etwall Leisure Centre. The Contract Manager advised that the issue of parking was being addressed by various means including appropriate signage and advice in order to facilitate accurate parking. Councillor Muller welcomed this update as local Ward Member for Etwall, and thanked Active Nation for the facilities provided.

HCS/96 **CORPORATE PLAN 2016-21: PERFORMANCE REPORT (1 OCT-31 DEC 2016)**

The Director of Community and Planning Services presented the report to Committee.

RESOLVED:-

Members noted progress against the performance targets.

HCS/97 **HOUSING WHITE PAPER CONSULTATION**

The Performance and Policy Manager presented the report to Committee advising that it would also be submitted to the next Environmental and Development Services Committee.

Councillor Richards queried the enforcement of civil penalties and sanctions within the White Paper. The Performance and Policy Manager noted the query and would revert with the requested information.

Councillor MacPherson commented on funding sources for social housing and whether councils could undertake development of their own land to meet

housing demand. Councillor Richards concurred, adding that the County Council had introduced a similar initiative with their own development company.

RESOLVED:-

Members noted the content of the Housing White Paper and endorsed the comments in respect of specific questions posed in the consultation on the White Paper for submission to the Department of Communities and Local Government.

HCS/98 **CORPORATE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY**

The Communities Manager presented the report to Committee.

Councillor Mrs Stuart sought clarification on how anti-social behaviour from council tenants is addressed. The Housing Operations Manager clarified the process and outlined the stages of intervention and enforcement.

Councillor Muller queried how the policy would be publicised and felt this would be key in maximising its effect. The Communities Manager agreed to look into this.

RESOLVED:-

Members approved the new Corporate Anti-Social Behaviour Policy.

HCS/99 **SAFER SOUTH DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2017-20**

The Communities Manager presented the report to Committee.

RESOLVED:-

Members agreed the adoption of the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership's new Partnership Plan 2017-20.

HCS/100 **HOUSING SAFETY POLICY 2017**

The Housing Services Improvements Manager presented the report to Committee.

RESOLVED:-

Members approved the Housing Safety Policy.

HCS/101 **ROSLISTON FORESTRY CENTRE – OPTIONS APPRAISAL FOR THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS TO BEGIN FOR A NEW MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

The Rosliston Forestry Centre Project Officer presented the report to Committee.

RESOLVED:-

Members approved the Options Appraisal, with Options 6 and 7 to be progressed.

HCS/102 **DELIVERING A FIRST CLASS REPAIRS SERVICE**

The Interim Director of Housing presented the report to Committee highlighting key areas put forward for review in order to make the service more effective.

Members welcomed the Director and supported the inclusive approach to the consultation process where employees, tenants and trade unions were being involved in the review.

RESOLVED:-

- 1.1** ***Members approved the recommendations regarding changes to the Direct Labour Organisation, (DLO) to improve our way of working and the services that the Council offers to tenants and the wider community.***
- 1.2** ***Making these changes will allow the DLO to become streamlined, efficient and reduce the reliance on external contractors to back up our services. This in turn will help the service become self-reliant and financially sustainable in future years.***
- 1.3** ***Members agreed that the changes will be brought in incrementally, starting with mobile working and then, after further discussion and negotiation with the trades team and trade unions, multi-tasking and flexible hours.***

HCS/103 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:-

Members considered and approved the updated work programme, subject to the change of date for the next Committee Meeting.

HCS/104 **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 Meeting held on 2nd February 2017 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.

ROSLISTON ASTRONOMY GROUP – OBSERVATORY

RESOLVED:-

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

SUPPORTED HOUSING REVIEW

RESOLVED:-

Members approved the amended recommendation.

The Meeting terminated at 7.55pm

COUNCILLOR J HEWLETT

CHAIRMAN