

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

26th April 2018

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Hewlett (Chairman), Councillor Smith (Vice-Chairman), and Councillors Grant, Mrs Plenderleith (substituting for Councillor Mrs Coyle), Wheeler (substituting for Councillor MacPherson) and Mrs Wyatt

Labour Group

Councillors Rhind, Richards, Shepherd and Taylor

Independent / Non-Grouped Member

Councillor Tipping

HCS/98 **APOLOGIES**

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

HCS/99 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th March 2018 were noted and approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Richards made reference to Minute No.HCS/89 and queried progress on the letter to the Member of Parliament regarding Universal Credit. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) confirmed that the Chief Executive had a meeting booked with the Leader to agree the draft.

HCS/100 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

HCS/101 **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/102 **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/103 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no Overview and Scrutiny Reports to be submitted.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/104 **HOUSEMARK CORE BENCHMARKING REPORT 2016/17**

The Business Support Manager presented the report to Committee.

Councillor Richards favourably noted the use of Liability Orders as a primary means of debt recovery, rather than eviction action, as he felt the latter reduced the chances of collection.

RESOLVED:-

Members noted the findings of the recent Housemark report into performance across Housing Services for 2016/17.

HCS/105 **SERVICE POLICIES**

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

Councillor Richards queried the number of grass cuts quoted in the report, asking if 16 cuts were feasible, as well as clearance action after the first cut, as cuttings left on paths and pavements could represent a safety issue, especially when wet. The Director confirmed that the 16 cuts figure was an existing standard and that, given the recent investment in additional equipment and staffing, improvements in path clearance should be achievable.

Councillor Wheeler raised the issue of how the service policies information would be communicated to the public. The Director stated that the Communications Team were already engaged in promoting these policies more visibly.

Councillor Rhind commended the information, stating that it would be an useful information tool for Members to refer to when dealing with resident's queries or complaints.

RESOLVED:-

1.1 Members endorsed the service policies set out in the appendices to the report.

1.2 Members noted that a similar report was considered by the Environmental & Development Services Committee on the 19th April 2018 in respect of services falling within its terms of reference.

1.3 Members noted that work is ongoing to develop a range of quality standards and benchmarks which will enhance monitoring of performance and enable comparison with other local authorities, for which a further report will be brought to Committee later in the year.

Councillor Taylor left the Chamber at 6.15pm.

HCS/106 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:-

Members considered and approved the updated work programme.

HCS/107 **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 8th March 2018 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.

Councillor Taylor returned to the Chamber at 6.20pm.

STAR SURVEY 2018 (Paragraph 3)

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

PROPERTY IN CASTLE GRESLEY (Paragraph 3)

Members approved the recommendation in the report.

The Meeting terminated at 6.35pm.

COUNCILLOR J HEWLETT

CHAIRMAN