

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

20th August 2020

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Pegg (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Corbin, Churchill, Mrs Haines, Mrs Patten, Dr Perry and Mrs Wheelton

Labour Group

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

HCS/14 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that no apologies had been received.

HCS/15 **MINUTES**

That the open minutes of the Committees held 30th January 2020 and 12th March 2020 were noted and approved as a true record:

RESOLVED:-

That the open minutes of the following Committees were approved as a true record:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Minutes No's</u>
Housing and Community Services Committee	30.01.20	HCS/70 – HCS/82
Housing and Community Services Committee	12.03.20	HCS/86 – HCS/93

HCS/16 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Shepherd declared an interest in HCS/23 Community and Environment Partnership Scheme by virtue of being a trustee of the Citizen's Advice Bureau and would abstain from voting.

HCS/17 **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/18 **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/19 **HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The Head of Housing presented report to the Committee highlighting the recommendations and asked Members to note the Asset Management Action Plan updates.

The Committee raised questions regarding repair calls, service slippage due to Covid-19, an update on consultancy and information for residents regarding damp problems. The Head of Housing clarified that 14,000 individual calls had been received in relation to 9,000 repair incidents. The Head of Housing informed Members during the Covid-19 pandemic emergency and urgent repair services continued to be delivered and advised that an appraisal framework was to be developed to in relation to consultancy requirements.

The Head of Housing explained that the content and distribution of the video on the Council's website would be reviewed regarding the advice for the prevention of damp problems and added that staff would receive refresher training through the Personal Development Review (PDR) process. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) added that public engagement would be a future agenda item for the Committee to consider.

RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 *The Committee noted the updated Asset Management Strategy Action Plan.***
- 1.2 *The Committee agreed that a comprehensive review of the Asset Management Strategy be completed before the end of 2022 in conjunction with a review of the overarching Housing Strategy.***
- 1.3 *The Committee approved the procurement of an external consultancy to carry out a comprehensive options appraisal of an existing site (Smallthorn Place Woodville) and to identify possible delivery options for refurbishment, redevelopment, or disposal of the site.***
- 1.4 *The Committee agreed for a report to be brought to the Committee outlining future delivery options for new homes in the District, including the possibility of providing further "in house" development.***

HCS/20 **CONTRIBUTION TO ACTIVE DERBYSHIRE**

The Head of Cultural and Community Services presented the report highlighting the latest projects and the requested a contribution of £12,500 from the Council towards funding.

Members questioned how Active Derbyshire would be applied in the virtual world and what other forms of information were available to residents. The

Head of Cultural and Community Services clarified that work with schools would continue with exercise programmes being developed along with new programmes for higher risk residents due to Covid-19 and that the Team was actively looking at other venues, such as schools, that could provide meeting places for smaller groups and that work was underway with Active Derbyshire to provide alternatives to internet-based information.

RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 The Committee approved a financial contribution to Active Derbyshire for 2020/21 of £12,191 for the delivery of outcomes set out in a Service Level Agreement with the Council in Appendix 1 of the report.***
- 1.2 The Committee agreed that delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director, Service Delivery, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee to sign any separate agreements necessary to ensure the delivery of the projects set out in the Service Level Agreement.***

HCS/21 **NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS**

The Head of Cultural and Community Services presented the report and outlined the key deliverables for 2020-21 headlining the contributions of £11,000 for Get Active in the Forest and £8,600 for the Environment Education Service.

The Committee welcomed the report and thanked the National Forest and Rolls-Royce in their support of this scheme.

Members raised questions about the promotion of the National Forest scheme and whether the National Forest boundaries could be extended further into South Derbyshire. The Head of Cultural and Community Services informed the Committee of the online National Forest promotion and newsletters issued locally to community groups and Parish Councils and explained that boundaries could possibly be reviewed with the support from the National Forest.

RESOLVED:-

The Committee agreed to the Council entering into the Service Level Agreements with the National Forest Company for the Get Active in the Forest Service as per Appendix 1 and the Environmental Education Project Service, as per Appendix 2 of the report, up to the 31st March 2021.

HCS/22 **ENGLAND TREE STRATEGY CONSULTATION**

The Head of Cultural and Community Services presented the report advising the Committee of the Strategy's key aims of protecting, restoring and expanding tree coverage in England.

Members showed support for the report and raised queries regarding the felling of trees in the District and strengthening the consultation responses. The Head of Cultural and Community Services advised the Committee that replacement trees were not always of the same species but would be selected based on suitability of the location and ongoing management. The Head of Cultural and Community Services confirmed that the consultation responses would be updated to address the greater priority and economic benefits to existing communities.

RESOLVED:-

The Committee approved the amendment to the wording of 3.12 of the Report, which would strengthen the report and give greater parity both economically and ecologically.

The Committee:

- 1.1 Noted the content of the consultation on the England Tree Strategy.***
- 1.2 Approved the response outlined in this report and authorised its submission to DEFRA.***

HCS/23 **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP SCHEME**

The Community Partnership Officer presented the report and advised the Committee that six applications had been received, five of which had been recommended for approval.

RESOLVED:-

The Committee accepted the recommendations of the Community and Environmental Partnership Scheme Assessment Panel, to award grants as detailed in section 4.13 of the report.

HCS/24 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the Committee Work Programme advising Members that the draft Allocations Policy would be brought back to a future Committee for ratification.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

HCS/25 **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.

TO RECEIVE THE EXEMPT MINUTES

RESOLVED:-

That the exempt minutes of the following Committees were approved as a true record:

Housing and Community Services Committee 30th January 2020.

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.

ACQUISITION OF NEW COUNCIL HOUSING AT ACRESFORD ROAD, OVERSEAL

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

REVIEW OF HOUSING SERVICE

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report.

The Meeting terminated at 8:40 pm.

COUNCILLOR D PEGG

CHAIRMAN