

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

24th August 2017

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Hewlett, (Chairman), Councillor Smith (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Billings, Coe, Mrs Coyle, Grant, Watson (substituting for Councillor Muller) and Mrs Wyatt

Labour Group

Councillors Rhind, Richards, Shepherd and Taylor

In attendance

Councillor Atkin and Mrs Coe (Conservative Group)

HCS/16 **AWARDS**

The Chairman notified the Committee of the Council's achievement in being invited to the Houses of Parliament to be presented with three national 'Green Apple' awards and was joined by Councillor Watson in congratulating those officers involved in this achievement.

HCS/17 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Muller (Conservative Group)

HCS/18 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th April 2017 were noted and approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

HCS/19 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

HCS/20 **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/21 **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/22 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no Overview and Scrutiny Reports to be submitted.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/23 **CORPORATE PLAN 2016-21: PERFORMANCE REPORT (1 APRIL – 30 JUNE 2017)**

The Chief Executive presented the report to Committee outlining key successes. Councillor Mrs Coyle was joined by Members in thanking the Social Media and PR Specialist for his valuable contribution in producing the Corporate Plan and wished him well for the future in his new role.

RESOLVED:-

Members noted progress against performance targets.

HCS/24 **HOUSING POLICY POST ELECTION**

The Performance and Policy Manager presented the report to Committee explaining the impact of the recent General Election, the Grenfell Tower tragedy and the impending roll-out of Universal Credit on the Housing Service. The Performance and Policy Manager advised that as approved by both this Committee and Environmental and Development Services Committee, a response was submitted to Central Government on the Housing White Paper and that there were no further updates to report.

Further to the report, the Chief Executive provided an update on the new Depot site, advising that the building would be modernised to meet current regulations.

Councillor Richards raised concerns regarding the impact of the roll out of Universal Credit, with specific regard to the initial processing period and the potential consequences of the subsequent gap between payments. Members discussed their support in formally requesting a delay in the introduction of Universal Credit via the local Member of Parliament.

RESOLVED:-

The issues identified and actions to tackle these were noted by Members. Members approved to delegate authority to the Chairman of this Committee and Strategic Director of Housing Services to send a letter to the local Member of Parliament expressing concerns regarding the full roll-out of Universal Credit. The letter should ask for support for a delay in the introduction of Universal Credit and to make reference to concerns regarding the time period for claims.

HCS/25 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:-

Members considered and approved the updated work programme.

HCS/26 **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 14th June 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.

DIRECT OFFERS OF ACCOMMODATION AND OFFERS MADE TO MEMBERS OF STAFF 2016-17 (Paragraph 1 & 2)

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

The Meeting terminated at 6.30pm.

COUNCILLOR J HEWLETT

CHAIRMAN