

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

26th November 2015

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Hewlett (Chairman), Councillor Smith (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Billings, Mrs Coe, Mrs Coyle, Harrison, Murray (substituting for Councillor Coe) and Mrs Wyatt.

Labour Group

Councillors Dunn, Rhind, Richards and Wilkins (substituting for Councillor Taylor).

In attendance

Councillor Atkin.

HCS/44 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coe, Muller (Conservative Group) and Taylor (Labour Group).

HCS/45 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th October 2015 were noted and approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

HCS/46 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

HCS/47 **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/48 **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/49 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no Overview and Scrutiny Reports to be submitted.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/50 OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND COMMUNITY FACILITY STRATEGY UPDATE

The Open Space and Facilities Development Manager presented the report to the Committee, also making reference to a consultation summary and the detailed sub area profiles currently being compiled. The Director of Community and Planning Services requested that Members notify his department of any suitable projects, which could be linked into Section106 funds.

Councillors Smith and Murray both commended the work undertaken, as detailed in the report. Other comments and queried raised by Members relating to terminology, information relating to the 26-54 age group, as opposed to the younger and older categories, and the possibility of enhanced provision in certain areas were noted and responded to.

RESOLVED:-

That Members noted the development of the Open Space, Sport and Community Facility Strategy, approved the Vision and Principles, along with the establishment of the notion of a hierarchy of provision.

HCS/51 HOUSING CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2012-2017: PROGRESS REPORT

The Housing Asset Manager presented the report to the Committee.

Comments and queried raised by Members relating to the potential uses of the underspend, the accuracy of its value, alternative heating systems and the use of solar panels on council buildings were noted and responded to.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That Members approved the half yearly 2015/16 progress report for the Housing Capital Investment Programme.***
- 2) That Members approved the expenditure proposals contained within the report.***
- 3) That Members approved the use of some of the projected underspend to progress Phase 2 of new building development and regeneration programme.***

HCS/52 UNTIDY GARDENS PROCEDURE

The Housing Operations Manager delivered the report to the Committee.

Comments and queried raised by Members relating to the definition of 'untidy' and other terminology, the timing of any legal action, the wording of the enforcement letters and recoupment of any fees incurred, the approach relating to more vulnerable individuals or those in financial difficulty, the

likelihood of eviction action based purely on this issue, the treatment of gardens with animals present, potential environmental issues and the rights of access during Members' estate walkabouts were noted and responded to.

The Director of Housing and Environmental Services gave assurances that this policy would only be engaged with in extreme cases, would be subject to thorough review and that the local Ward Member would be notified of any cases where such action was being considered.

The Housing Operations Manager confirmed that revised tenancy agreements were currently being drafted, for approval at a future committee.

RESOLVED:-

That Members approved the introduction of the untidy gardens procedure.

HCS/53 **CORPORATE PLAN 2009-15: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (1JULY – 30 SEPTEMBER 2015)**

The Director of Housing and Environmental Services and Director of Community and Planning Services jointly presented the report to Committee, highlighting the areas requiring attention.

Comments relating to the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Team and the use of body mounted cameras by the Neighbourhood Wardens by Councillors Murray and Wilkins respectively were noted.

RESOLVED:-

That Members considered and approved the progress against the performance targets.

HCS/54 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16**

RESOLVED:-

That the updated work programme be considered and approved.

HCS/55 **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 October 2015 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.

The Meeting terminated at 7.10pm.

COUNCILLOR J HEWLETT

CHAIRMAN