

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

7<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Pegg (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Corbin, Churchill, Ford (substituting for Cllr Roberts) Mrs Haines, Dr Perry and Mrs Wheelton

**Labour Group**

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

**In Attendance**

Councillors Mrs Brown and Hewlett

HCS/01 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillor Roberts.

HCS/02 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was noted that Councillor Ford declared that Item HCS/13 to be of personal interest by virtue of being a County Councillor.

HCS/03 **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/04 **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/05 **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP SCHEME GRANT**

The Communities Manager presented the report to the Committee, updating Members about the applications received and the Grant Panel which would be arranged in the very near future.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1.1 That the Committee agreed to the proposals for changes to be made to the existing scheme criteria to assist applicants who are unable to find the required match funding in the current climate.***
- 1.2 That the Committee agreed the maximum amount of grant that can be awarded be increased to 100% of the project cost where an applicant can demonstrate they have been unsuccessful accessing match funding.***
- 1.3 That the Committee agreed to authorise delegated powers to the Community Partnership Scheme Grant Panel to make decisions on when the grant contribution can be increased above the current 50% ceiling.***

Councillor Pegg (Vice-Chairman lost Connection due to technical issues and failed to reconnect. The Committee, therefore, proposed and voted for Councillor Ford as Chairman of the Meeting.

HCS/06 **REVIEW OF THE SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL SURVEILLANCE POLICY**

The Communities Manager presented the report to the Committee explaining that the review had been undertaken to ensure that the Council's policy complied with overarching legislation.

Members raised queries regarding the maintenance plan for CCTV Cameras. The Communities Manager informed Members that maintenance was mentioned within the policy and different schemes had different maintenance programmes.

**RESOLVED:**

***That the Committee approved the changes made to the South Derbyshire District Council Surveillance Policy.***

HCS/07 **HOMELESSNESS / ROUGH SLEEPING**

The Head of Housing presented the report to the Committee and requested retrospective approval due to Covid-19 and approval for continued support to homelessness with a collective funding bid with other Districts across the county.

Members raised a queries regarding placement of people in areas away from their original area residency and the long term strategy for continued support. The Head of Housing explained that current legislation stated that placements should be reasonable, and the temporary accommodation contained in the report was the nearest premises to South Derbyshire that could deliver the services required. The Head of Housing informed the Committee that the

Homelessness Strategy looked at the longer-term view along with an Action Plan to pick up wider aspects of homelessness.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1.1 That the Committee retrospectively approved the granting of permission to make a “block booking” of the Three Queens Hotel to use as temporary accommodation for homeless households affected by the Covid19 outbreak. This is following the Chief Executive’s prior approval under his delegated authority during the suspension of Council and Committee meetings due to the pandemic.***
- 1.2 That the Committee retrospectively noted that the commissioning of this service was subject to an exemption from the Contract Procedure Rules, under Sections 4 and 5 and that this exemption has been ratified by the Finance and Management Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020.***
- 1.3 That the Committee approved a contribution of £10,000 from existing Homelessness budgets towards the continued support for households that have been accommodated in temporary accommodation. This contribution has already been approved by the Finance and Management Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020.***

HCS/08 **CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24: PERFORMANCE REPORT (2019-2020 QUARTER 4 – 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH)**

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance presented the report to the Committee and highlighted key areas within the Corporate Plan Performance Report and the Service Delivery Risk Register.

Councillor Corbin queries regarding Safety Standards, Rosliston Forestry Centre, Greenbank Leisure Centre.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) informed Members that a great deal of work had been undertaken to bring all of the Council’s properties up to the required standards but was not prepared to move it from a red risk until every property was up to date and that a Fire Safety Contractor will be considered for additional support in that area.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) informed Members that a Sufficiency and Condition Survey of all Council properties had started and that Greenbank was one of the first properties to be looked at and this along with an Environmental Audit carried out last year flagged up a range of issues. An Asset Management Plan, to shortly be presented to Finance and Management Committee for approval, included a capital programme to address the issues at Greenbank Leisure Centre. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) explained that prior to Covid-19 the Council was ready to go to tender for a

new contractor for Forestry Centre but this had been paused due to the pandemic.

Councillor Churchill enquired about future funding by Rolls Royce. The Head of Cultural and Community Services confirmed that funding had been secured for the next year and that work with other sponsors was continuing

Councillor Richards raised concern regarding the possible increase of Universal Credit applicants. The Head of Housing informed the Committee that Universal Credit applications had increased during the pandemic and a software upgrade has made operations better enabling staff more time to give support to people through a difficult time.

**RESOLVED:**

***1.1 That the Committee considered progress against performance targets set out in the Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024.***

***1.2 That the Committee reviewed the Risk Register for the Committee's services.***

HCS/09 **DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT**

The Head of Housing presented the report to the Committee and requested retrospective approval to amend the Housing Assistance Policy and the procurement of software to support the service.

Councillor Ford requested an update on the recruitment of South Derbyshire District Council's Occupational Therapist. The Head of Housing informed Members that the job was in the process of being evaluated and that advice was being sought from both the County Council and housing providers to ensure that a person with the right skills set is recruited

**RESOLVED:**

***1.1 That the Committee retrospectively approved the amendment of Section 8.1 of the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy, to allow for eligible adaptations under the value of £6,000 to be agreed without the need for the Test of Financial Resources to further improve the timely delivery of the service. This is following the Chief Executive's prior approval under his delegated authority during the suspension of Council and Committee meetings due to the pandemic.***

***1.2 That the Committee retrospectively approved the procurement of suitable software to support the more efficient delivery of adaptations, up to the value of £12,000. This is following the Chief Executive's prior approval under his delegated authority during the suspension of Council and Committee meetings due to the pandemic.***

HCS/10 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the Committee Work

**RESOLVED:**

*The Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.*

HCS/11 **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 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

*The Committee was informed that no questions had been received.*

**STRUCTURE REVIEW CULTURAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

*The Committee approved the recommendation in the report*

The Meeting terminated at 7:20 pm.

COUNCILLOR M FORD

AS SUBSTITUTE CHAIRMAN