

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

1st October 2020

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Corbin (Vice Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Churchill, Ford (substitute for Cllr Pegg) Mrs Haines, Mrs Patten, and Mrs Wheelton (substituting for Councillor Dawson).

Labour Group

Councillors Mulgrew, Rhind, Richards, Shepherd and Tilley (substituting for Cllr Mrs Heath).

HCS/30 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillors Pegg (Chairman), Dawson and Mrs Heath

HCS/31 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no Declarations of Interest had been received from Members.

HCS/32 **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/33 **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/34 **CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24 PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 1 – 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE**

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance presented the report to the Committee, providing an overview of the seven key performance indicators and noted that there had been no changes to the Risk Register and that all actions had been updated.

RESOLVED:-

The Committee considered progress against performance targets set out in the Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024.

HCS/35 **HOMEFINDER, HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY**

The Head of Housing presented the report to the Committee informing Members that the report had been thoroughly checked by the legal team.

Councillor Richards raised a query regarding the Introductory Tenancy and length of time regarding notices served seeking possession. The Housing Services Manager clarified that tenants must be served a valid notice, for a 12 month period and confirmed it was a lengthy process stipulated by law.

RESOLVED:-

The Committee approved the revised Homefinder Housing Allocations Policy for implementation with effect from 1st December 2020.

HCS/36 **HOUSING CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The Head of Housing presented the report to the Committee informing Members that the 2017-20 strategy had been reviewed and that the key area of focus was to improve communication and dialogue with tenants.

Members questioned regarding access to the internet for tenants who were advised the by the Head of Housing that funding may be available to improve communications in some areas otherwise written notices would be issued.

RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 The Committee approved the Housing Customer Engagement Strategy Action Plan for further consultation with Housing Customers.***
- 1.2 The Committee noted the progress against the Community Engagement Strategy 2017-2020.***

HCS/37 **ROUNABOUT SPONSORSHIP**

The Head of Cultural and Community Services presented the report to the Committee informing Members that 23 roundabouts in the District had been identified as being suitable for sponsorship and that the key benefits would be visual improvement providing bio-diversity through use of a wildflower theme and the promotion of local businesses.

Members asked if parks could be included in the scheme and if the report would be shared with Parish Councils. The Head of Cultural Community Services informed the Committee that parks could possibly be considered for

a second phase of the scheme and that ensuring the scheme would be communicated to all Parishes and community groups including unparished urban areas.

RESOLVED:-

The Committee approved that a Sponsorship Scheme be implemented across the District for highway roundabouts and associated features.

HCS/38 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee Work Programme was presented to Members.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

HCS/39 **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.

REVIEW OF HOUSING SERVICE

The Committee approved the recommendation in the report

The Meeting terminated at 6:50 pm.

COUNCILLOR D CORBIN

VICE-CHAIRMAN