

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

19th August 2021

HCS/26 **ANY EXEMPT QUESTIONS RECEIVED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 11**

The Committee was informed that no exempt questions from Members of the Council had been received.

HCS/27 **ROSLISTON FORESTRY CENTRE – FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Cultural Services Manager presented the report to Members highlighting the proposed agreement with Forestry England with the preferred option being a 30-year lease.

Members welcomed the report and looked forward to the results of the negotiations, however, expressed concern about risk with the current rent, the agreement in principle and if businesses at the site had been kept informed of the situation.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) confirmed that the negotiations were at an early stage and Forestry England was open to a proposal from South Derbyshire, but that the process had been halted due to COVID-19. The agreement in principle was for a 30-year lease with a peppercorn rent, any financial implications would be reported to the Finance and Management Committee and tenants at the Centre had been updated.

RESOLVED:

2.1 The Committee approved the planned future arrangements for the management of Rosliston Forestry Centre.

2.2 The Committee agreed to the principle of the Council entering into a 30-year lease for land at Rosliston Forestry Centre owned by Forestry England from 1 April 2022.

2.3 The Committee agreed that delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director – Service Delivery and Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairs of Housing and Community Services and Finance and Management Committee to agree the terms of the lease, subject to 2.4 below.

2.4 The Committee agreed that any additional financial implications arising from the proposed terms of the lease be reported back to Finance and Management Committee for consideration.

HCS/28 **BETTER CARE FUNDING ALLOCATION – FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Strategic Housing Manager presented the report to Members with the six-month update highlighting that The New Horizons scheme had the capacity to support 35 people and seven safe houses including counselling for children.

Members asked if there was any additional capacity in the scheme and noted the fantastic work that had been done by the team in supporting families.

The Strategic Housing Manager confirmed that the current scheme was full and that vulnerable people were being moved through the process as quickly as possible into housing, therefore, freeing spaces within the scheme.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) advised Members that due to the success of the SDDC scheme, it was being looked at by other authorities.

RESOLVED:

2.1 The Committee noted the progress of schemes it has supported through the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) allocation and the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy (the Policy) and recognised the wider impact they have on reducing pressures on front-line Council services.

2.2 The Committee approved the extension of fixed term contracts for the Technical Officer post (EH73) within the DFG team and the Public Health Officer (Housing) (EH77) post within the Environmental Health team to the 31 March 2023.

2.3 The Committee approved that the Housing Assistance Policy dated 2021-March 2023, attached at Appendix 1 of the report, be updated to reflect the updates outlined within the report, and be subject to public consultation prior to final approval at a future meeting of the Committee.

2.4 The Committee agreed that the financial and employment implications associated with the report be referred to the Finance and Management Committee on 26 August 2021 for consideration and approval.

HCS/29

ANNUALISED HOURS CONTRACTS – ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECT

The Cultural Services Manager presented the report to the Committee which would require referral to the Finance and Management Committee and consultations with staff and Trades Unions.

Members raised questions regarding contract changes in respect of public holidays and holiday pay. The Cultural Services Manager would refer to Human Resources for further information.

RESOLVED:

2.1 The Committee endorsed the proposed change from standard hours to annualised hours for the Environmental Education Project Team as set out at Appendix 1 to the report.

2.2 The Committee referred the proposed contractual changes to the Environmental Education Project Team to Finance and Management Committee for approval.

The Meeting terminated at 19:20 hours.

COUNCILLOR M MULGREW

VICE-CHAIRMAN