

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

28th January 2021

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Rhind (Chairman), Councillor Mulgrew (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Heath, Pegg, Richards and Shepherd.

Conservative Group

Councillors Churchill, Corbin, Mrs. Haines and Watson (substituting for Councillor Atkin).

Independent Group

Councillors Dawson and Roberts

In Attendance

Councillors Dunn, Dr. Pearson, Southerd, Tilley and Mrs. Wheelton.

HCS/67 **APOLOGIES**

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

HCS/68 **TO RECEIVE THE OPEN MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS**

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 20th August 2020, 1st October 2020 and 19th November 2020 were noted and approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

HCS/69 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

HCS/70 **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/71 **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/72 **GREEN HOMES GRANT – LOCAL AUTHORITY DELIVERY PHASE 1B**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to the Committee outlining the grant awarded and informed Members that an allocations policy would be developed along with the application criteria and qualification procedure to support the process. The Strategic Director highlighted a poll of households that had been conducted which demonstrated a high level of interest from residents.

Members were very pleased to note the announcement about the grant that would provide energy efficient solutions for many residents.

RESOLVED:-

The Committee approved the proposed Allocation Policy for the Green Homes Grant – Local Authority Delivery Scheme Phase 1b.

HCS/73 **DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CONTRACT OPTIONS**

The Head of Housing Services presented the report to Members advising that a continuation of discussions with the County Council would be required to move the service into delivery.

RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 The Committee agreed that the Council continues to provide Assistive Technology (Careline) and Independent Living (Warden) services under the extended contract with Derbyshire County Council (DCC) until 31 March 2022.***
- 1.2 The Committee approved the proposed response to DCC on its proposals for future services at paragraph 4.4 of the report.***
- 1.3 The Committee agreed to continue to work with DCC and other providers to develop appropriate new services for implementation at the end of the current contract period the outcome of which will be reported to a future Committee.***

HCS/74 **SOCIAL HOUSING WHITE PAPER**

The Head of Housing Services presented the report to the Committee advising Members that the Government's white paper included seven key aspects including property safety and included a Regulator that would be appointed to inspect all housing provider's accommodation on a four-yearly basis.

RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 The Committee noted the implications for the Council's Housing Service of proposals contained in the Government's recently published Social Housing White Paper.**
- 1.2 The Committee agreed to consider the financial and legal implications of the proposals at a future meeting.**

HCS/75 **HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY**

The Head of Housing Services presented the report and highlighted the external review, the major causes and factors that led to homelessness and noted that an internal review of processes would be undertaken to ensure preventive measures were included.

Members gave overwhelming support to the report and findings of the external review commenting that face-to-face facilities in the offices should be maintained for those who required this service.

RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 The Committee approved the draft Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan for public consultation.**
- 1.2 The Committee agreed that the final version of the Strategy be presented to the Committee for ratification after the public consultation period.**

HCS/76 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET, FINANCIAL PLAN AND PROPOSED RENT 2021-22**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report and referred to the previous Housing and Community Services Committee where the item had been discussed.

RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 That the Committee agreed that Council House Rents be increased by CPI plus 0.5% (1% in total) for Tenants with effect from 1st April 2021 in accordance with the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 and after conclusion of the Rents for Social Housing from 2020 consultation.**
- 1.2 That the Committee considered the proposed revenue income and expenditure for 2021/22, together with the 10-year Financial Plan for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report and referred them to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.**
- 1.3 That the Committee agreed that the HRA be kept under review and measures identified to mitigate the financial risks detailed in the report and to maintain a sustainable financial position.**

HCS/77 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee Work Programme was presented to Members by the Strategic Director (Service Delivery).

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

HCS/78 **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 Meetings held on 20th August 2020, 1st October 2020 and 19th November 2020 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 18:55 hours.

COUNCILLOR G RHIND

CHAIRMAN