

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

19th August 2021

PRESENT:-

Labour Group

Councillor Mulgrew (Vice-Chair) and
Councillors Dunn (substituting for Councillor Rhind), Pegg, Richards and
Shepherd.

Conservative Group

Councillors Ackroyd, Churchill, Corbin, Ford, Haines and Smith.

Independent Group

Councillors Dawson and Roberts.

In Attendance

Councillors Bambrick and Taylor.

HCS/15 **APOLOGIES**

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

HCS/16 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee noted that Councillors Smith and Ford declared a personal
interest in item HCS/28 by virtue of being County Councillors.

HCS/17 **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/18 **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/19 **CORPORATE PLAN 2020-24 PERFORMANCE REPORT (2020-2021
QUARTER 1 – 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE)**

The Head of Organisational Development and Performance presented the report to the Committee highlighting the status of the seven indicators for this Committee. The two red indicators were for Communications Groups and Re-Letting of Council properties which was due to the late start of the Repairs contract and a problem in sourcing materials. The Risk Register had been reviewed regularly by Heads of Service with four indicators updated in this quarter.

RESOLVED:-

1.1 The Committee approved progress against performance targets set out in the Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024.

1.2 The Committee reviewed the Risk Register for the Committee's services.

1.3 The Committee agreed that the new Risk Register templates be reviewed following approval at the Audit Sub Committee in June 2021 and noted that they will replace the existing Risk Registers.

HCS/20 **REVISED HOUSING REPAIRS POLICY**

The Head of Housing Services presented the report and the policy to the Committee with a summary of the tenant repairs consultation collected via the web site and other media. There was a 10% response to the consultation with 200 people providing feedback. Overall, the policy received tenant support.

Members valued the report and with environmental sustainability being a key objective asked what assurances had been given to tenants that they would not see any rise their fuel bills.

The Head of Housing confirmed that the Council had no control over the gas or electricity tariff chosen by tenants but advised that support could be provided in cases of fuel poverty.

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) advised the Committee that there were some District-wide issues, but that the Low Carbon Homes Grant liaison would be managed by Environmental Health to provide low income families with the opportunity to retrofit their homes with energy saving measures. There would also need to be some associated education for residents and tenants on how to reduce fuel bills as part of the Council's Climate Change work.

RESOLVED:-

1.1 The Committee approved the draft Housing Repairs Policy at Appendix A of the report.

1.2 The Committee noted the responses to the Consultation exercise with regard to the development and delivery of service and communication improvements for tenants.

HCS/21 REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE REVIEW 2020-21

The Head of Housing presented the report with a review of the financial plan, major planned works and performance. Customer satisfaction was reported as quite high although there had been an issue with poor communication on-site. In the next financial year, carbon reduction would be looked at alongside flexibility in selecting suppliers.

Members raised questions about tenants' complaints and the poor communication results in the satisfaction survey and asked if the family tree would be extended to lower levels of the organisation. The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) assured Members that respective Heads of Service would take responsibility for all their service related matters.

RESOLVED:-

1.1 The Committee considered the annual review of repair and maintenance performance for 2020/21.

1.2 The Committee endorsed the outline programme of works for 2021/22. 1.3 The Committee approved that the report be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the report and the results of the customer satisfaction survey.

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HCS/22 FUTURE DELIVERY OF NEW COUNCIL HOUSING

The Strategic Housing Manager presented the report to the Committee providing a summary of the design and build projects plus the introduction of a common process for assessing all housing opportunities and a recent view of the housing register and property waiting list.

Members noted the detailed reports and the increase of available properties.

RESOLVED:-

1.1 The Committee approved an assessment methodology to inform the development or acquisition, redevelopment, or refurbishment of land and Council housing as per Appendix 1 of the report.

1.2 The Committee considered the research findings relating to housing needs and current social housing stock across the District as per Appendix 2 of the report.

1.3 The Committee approved the appointment of Councillor Gordon Rhind to the Council Housing Development Group.

HCS/23 MEMORIAL SAFETY POLICY

The Cultural Services Manager presented the report to the Committee advising the five-year inspection programme now included churchyards and graveyards in the updated policy. A contractor would be appointed to carry out the work.

Members commented that the processes should be carried out sensitively and families would need to be contacted should a memorial be deemed unsafe, particularly when use of mechanical diggers were to be used. In addition, fencing was suggested at Church Gresley due to anti-social behaviour problems.

The Cultural Services Manager advised that compassionate consultations would be added to the policy and that further information would be required to look at the issues at Church Gresley.

RESOLVED:-

1.1 The Committee approved the adoption of the updated Memorial Safety Policy.

1.2 The Committee agreed that monies in the region of £25- 30,000 be set aside from the existing Cemeteries and Closed Churchyard budgets over the next five years to cover the cost of undertaking the programme of memorial testing.

HCS/24 **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/25 **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.

ROSLISTON FORESTRY CENTRE – FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

BETTER CARE FUNDING ALLOCATION – FINANCIAL POSITION

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

ANNUALISED HOURS CONTRACTS – ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROJECT

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

The Meeting terminated at 19:20 hours.

COUNCILLOR M MULGREW

VICE-CHAIRMAN