

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

6th October 2016

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Hewlett (Chairman), Councillor Smith (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Billings, Mrs Coyle, Grant, Mrs Hall (substituting for Councillor Coe), Muller, Swann and Mrs Wyatt

Labour Group

Councillors Rhind, Richards, Mrs Stuart and Taylor

In attendance

Councillors Atkin (Conservative Group) and Shepherd (Labour Group)

HCS/35 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Coe (Conservative Group).

HCS/36 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th August 2016 were noted and approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Richards made reference to the appointment of a Chestnut Avenue caretaker and queried the recruitment process. The Director of Community and Planning Services confirmed that a recruitment exercise had been undertaken for both this role and that of Town Hall caretaker.

HCS/37 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The Committee was informed that no declarations of interest had been received.

HCS/38 **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/39 **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.

HCS/40 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no Overview and Scrutiny Reports to be submitted.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/41 **PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL POLICY**

The Environmental Health Manager presented the report to Committee.

Councillor Taylor queried the nature of enforcement action in the private rented sector. The Environmental Health Manager confirmed that action was currently reactive due to resources, but that once legal action had been initiated, tenancies were protected, each case being dealt with on its own merits. Councillor Smith suggested publicity to make landlords aware of potential action. The Environmental Health Manager referred to recent Facebook campaigns.

Councillor Richards referenced the eligibility criteria for grants, especially for those with disabilities. The Environmental Health Manager clarified the criteria for the Healthy Homes Grant, adding that as many referrals are GP or officer sourced, these individuals invariably satisfy the requirements.

Councillor Grant commented on the empty property grant. The Environmental Health Manager confirmed that long term empty properties had been identified and were being targeted in order to return them to the housing market, with grant assistance where required. Councillor Muller queried the financial situation. The Environmental Health Manager confirmed that monies were recouped wherever possible, by way of works by agreement payment arrangements or by lodging a claim against the property, for example.

Councillor Mrs Coyle queried the impact of the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans, aimed at freeing up hospital beds. The Environmental Health Manager confirmed that this initiative was likely to increase demand for suitable housing, but as it was currently difficult to forecast the level of increase, the situation was being monitored.

RESOLVED:

Members approved the revised Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy.

HCS/42 **HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2016 - 2046**

The Housing Asset Manager presented the report to Committee, confirming that the Action Plan element was to be completed and circulated shortly.

Councillor Muller led Members in commending the officers for this document.

RESOLVED:-

Members approved the adoption of the 30 Year Housing Asset Management Strategy for the period 2016-2046.

HCS/43 **SOUTH DERBYSHIRE CYCLING PLAN 2016 – 2021**

The Director of Community and Planning Services presented the report to Committee, emphasising that South Derbyshire was the first Council in Derbyshire to adopt a Cycle Plan.

Councillor Grant referred to the aim of holding ‘one large cycle promotion event per year’ by 2021, stating that this should be amended to read ‘at least one’, a suggestion agreed by Committee.

Councillor Smith praised achievements to date, noting in particular the success of the Women’s Cycling Tour of Britain’s passage through South Derbyshire in the summer.

RESOLVED:-

Members approved the South Derbyshire Cycling Plan for the period 2016-2021

HCS/44 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:-

Members considered and approved the updated work programme.

HCS/45 **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 Meeting held on 25th August 2016 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.

STENSON FIELDS COMMUNITY FACILITY

RESOLVED:-

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

The Meeting terminated at 6:45pm.

COUNCILLOR J HEWLETT

CHAIRMAN