

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

3rd October 2019

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Pegg (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Atkin, Billings (substituting for Councillor Churchill), Corbin, Ford (substituting for Councillor Roberts), Mrs Haines and Mrs Wheelton

Labour Group

Councillors Mrs. Heath, Mulgrew, Richards, Shepherd and Southerd (substituting for Councillor Rhind).

HCS/34 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Churchill, Dr Perry and Roberts (Conservative Group) and Councillor Rhind (Labour Group)

HCS/35 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ford declared a personal interest in Item 7 on the Agenda by virtue of being a County Councillor.

Councillor Richards declared a personal interest in Item 8 on the Agenda by virtue of being a member of the Derbyshire Health Trust and advised he would not participate in the debate.

HCS/36 **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/37 **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/38 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no Overview and Scrutiny Reports to be submitted.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/39 **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHEME**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to Committee, highlighting the £275,000 identified as capital funding for this Scheme. The Strategic Director advised the Scheme would be beneficial across the District for the period 2020-21. The Strategic Director commented that environmental projects funded previously would be identified and advised that new projects would be encouraged to apply for funding.

Councillor Southerd requested clarification of the term CICs. The Community Partnership Officer responded these are Community Interest Companies where an organisation has the community at its heart, but can also trade as a company and may be profitable outside the scheme.

Councillor Atkin welcomed the report to launch community projects and asked if the project funding has to be match funded. The Community Partnership Officer responded that the scheme could provide a maximum of 50% funding for each project.

A proposal to change the name of the Scheme was carried by the Committee.

RESOLVED:-

The Committee agreed to the proposals for a scheme to distribute the £275,000 of Capital funding that had been identified within the Council's budget and confirmed at the Finance and Management Committee 29 August 2019.

The Committee agreed the requirement for a minimum 50% matched funding.

The Committee agreed to authorise delegated powers to the Community Partnership Scheme Grant Panel Members to award project development grants. These grants are to cover professional fees and costs to secure planning permissions subject to a single award not exceeding £2,000 and an overall maximum of £20,000 (7.27% of the total grant pot).

The Committee approved to recommend to Council, that the name of the Community Partnership Grant scheme is changed to the Community and Environment Partnership Grant scheme, to reflect the widening of the grant application criteria to encourage projects which have a positive impact on the environment.

HCS/40 **ADOPTION OF COUNTYWIDE OLDER PERSONS STRATEGY**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to the Committee setting out a five year plan to work within the County to provide housing for older persons.

Councillor Richards enquired if the Repton and Dales site can be redeveloped. The Strategic Housing Manager responded that the site is under consideration for redevelopment in conjunction with Derbyshire County Council and that the Dales site may be handled separately.

RESOLVED:-

That following Cabinet approval by Derbyshire County Council on 9th May 2019, the Committee adopted the recently published 'Older People's Housing, Accommodation and Support – A commissioning Strategy for Derbyshire 2019-35' (set out at Appendix 1 of the report).

That the Committee considered the content of the Strategy document and its wider implications for decision making in other areas of service provision.

HCS/41 **THE BETTER CARE FUND ALLOCATION**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) presented the report to the Committee, noting that the report provided a position statement as to the progress with funds already committed. The plan was to a programme of planned expenditure against the 2019/20 BCF allocation would be brought to November Committee with the associated carry over of the underspend on this fund into 2020/21 to enable new projects to be developed and existing projects to be reviewed and extended where required.

Councillor Southerd raised a query as to whether the Disabled Facility Grant (DFG) allowed for other repairs to be funded if the condition of a property warranted it. The Strategic Housing Manager responded that other repairs may be outside the terms of the scheme and that the primary focus would be to improve comfort for the occupant.

Councillor Mulgrew raised a question about how the grants are advertised. The Strategic Housing Manager responded that funding was allocated through referrals from Social Services or from Derbyshire County Council. The scheme is currently not actively marketed due to certain restrictions as to eligibility.

Councillor Wheelton asked if there is a communication available for Members to provide all information to the local community. The Strategic Housing Manager advised that some schemes do have supporting literature for example Healthy Homes.

RESOLVED:-

The Committee noted and welcomed the Council's Better Care Fund (BCF) allocation of £792,375 for 2019/20 and the arrangements that are in place to manage the funds. The Committee endorsed the actions within the plan for implementation over a three-year period.

The Committee noted the progress on the projects and programmes the Council put in place funded by BCF in 2018/19.

The Committee endorsed a review of the existing Private Sector Housing Renewals and Assistance Policy to enable new schemes and additional Disabled Facility Grant (DFG) peripheral services to be established. The revised document will be brought back to a future Committee.

The Committee noted that a programme of planned expenditure against the 2019/20 BCF allocation will be brought to November Committee with the associated carry over into 2020/21 to enable new projects to be developed and existing projects to be reviewed and extended where required.

HCS/42 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Strategic Director (Service Delivery) advised Members of the programme.

RESOLVED:-

That the Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

HCS/43 **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.

The Meeting terminated at 6.25 pm.

COUNCILLOR D PEGG

VICE-CHAIRMAN