

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

05 January 2023

OPEN

PRESENT:

Labour Group

Councillor Rhind (Chair) and Councillor M. Mulgrew (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Richards, Shepherd, Southerd (Substitute for Councillor Dunn) and Tilley (Substitute for Councillor Heath).

Conservative Group

Councillors Corbin, Fitzpatrick (Substitute for Councillor Lemmon), Ford, Haines (Substitute for Councillor Redfern), Patten and Smith.

In attendance

Councillors Bambrick and Wheelton.

HCS/55 **APOLOGIES**

The Committee was informed that apologies had been received from Councillors Dunn and Heath (Labour Group), Councillors Lemmon and Redfern (Conservative Group) and Councillor Roberts (Independent Group).

HCS/56 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Committee noted that no Declarations of Interest had been received.

HCS/57 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO 10**

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

HCS/58 **QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL UNDER 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/59 SERVICE BASE BUDGETS 2023-24**

The Head of Finance presented the report to the Committee highlighting that the budget was based on current service levels and that the report focused on changes on the current base budget compared to 2023-24 and that Heads of Service had been involved in scrutinising the spend details.

The current cost of Utilities, including Water, was under negotiation and other increases were noted for Subscriptions and Fees, Events Equipment Hire and Grounds Maintenance. The Head of Finance also gave an overview of earmarked reserves available to the Committee and highlighted the risks of future funding.

Members questioned if the two events for Festival of Leisure and Liberation Day could be combined to reduce costs, the number of allotments managed by the Council and if travelling fairs could be charged a ground rent. The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) informed the Committee that further investigation was required in the matter of the events, the number of allotments would be obtained and Members were advised that Legal would look into the possibility of charging travelling fairs.

RESOLVED:

1.1 The proposed income and expenditure revenue budget for this Committee's services for 2023/24 as detailed in Appendix 1 was considered and recommended to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.

1.2 The Committee considered and approved the proposed fees and charges as detailed in Appendix 2 for 2023/24.

1.3 The Committee considered and approved an increase of 2% in Grants to Voluntary Bodies in 2023/24.

HCS/60 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET, FINANCIAL PLAN AND PROPOSED RENT 2023-24

The Head of Finance presented the report to Members which included the options for setting rents. The rent cap, at the time of the meeting, had been set at 7% by the Government. Given that the rent cap had only recently been confirmed by the Government, it was recommended that further options would to be discussed at Housing and Community Services Committee on 2 February 2023 with full analysis to be presented by the Head of Finance.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee noted the report and recommendations and agreed to reconsider on 2 February 2023.***

HCS/61 DECARBONISATION OF THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING STOCK

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Members confirming that the bid had been put forward.

RESOLVED:

- 1.1 The Committee approved the Council bidding for funding of £1.8 million from "Wave 2.1" of the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Grant fund informed by the findings of Nottingham City report on energy efficiency and subsequent bid for Wave 1 funding.***
- 1.2 That in the event the bid is successful the Council agreed to making the required landlord contribution of 50% of the total cost of improvements that would be delivered by this scheme (approximately £876,000 over 3 years***
- 1.3 That in the event of a successful bid the Council approved the acceptance and receipt of any bid funding***
- 1.4 That the financial implications of submitting the bid are referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.***

HCS/62 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented to report to the Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee considered and approved the updated work programme.

HCS/63 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 (AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT [ACCESS TO INFORMATION] ACT 1985)

The Chairman may therefore move:

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.

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.

REVISED STRUCTURE – STRATEGIC HOUSING TEAM

RESOLVED:

That the Committee approved the recommendations in the report.

The meeting terminated at 16:40 hours

COUNCILLOR G RHIND

CHAIR