

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

17th June 2010

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman), Councillor Hewlett (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Bladen (substitute for Councillor Mrs. Brown), Grant, Harrison, Murray, Roberts and Wheeler (substitute for Councillor Mrs. Hood).

**Labour Group**

Councillors Mrs. Gillespie, Mrs. Lane, Rhind, Richards and Wilkins (substitute for Councillor Shepherd).

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence from the Meeting were received from Councillors Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Hood (Conservative Group) and Shepherd (Labour Group).

HCS/1. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd April 2010, were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

HCS/2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Richards and Mrs. Gillespie declared prejudicial interests in Minute No. HCS/11, Supported Housing Service Review, as they had family members who were in receipt of these services.

Councillor Harrison declared a prejudicial interest in HCS/15, Foston Travellers Site, as a Cabinet Member of Derbyshire County Council.

Councillors Murray and Jones declared personal interests in Minute No. HCS/15, Foston Travellers Site, as Members of Derbyshire County Council.

HCS/3. **QUESTION BY A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule No. 11, Councillor Rhind gave notice of the following question:-

“Would the Chairman inform Members of the total cost, including any court actions for the last 12 months, of removing travellers from, and cleaning council land after, illegal traveller encampments”.

The Chairman responded that the Director of Community Services would provide a written reply to all Members of the Committee.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

HCS/4. **HOUSING STRATEGY – PROGRESS REPORT 2009 - 2010**

A report was submitted advising Members that in June 2009 a new Housing Strategy had been approved for the period 2009 –14.

The Housing Strategy had three strategic aims which were:-

- To reduce the shortfall in affordable housing.
- To prevent the loss of a home and support independent living.
- To improve intelligence and continuous improvement.

Members were updated on delivery of the actions contained within the Housing Strategy and any potential risks in delivering future actions were also highlighted.

**RESOLVED:-**

- 1) ***That progress made in the delivery of the 2009-14 Housing Strategy – Year 1 2009/2010, be noted.***
- 2) ***That the potential shortfall in meeting future years' targets for affordable housing be noted.***

HCS/5. **SERVICE PLANS 2010/11**

Service Plans had been distributed, and Members of the Housing and Community Services Committee were asked to focus on the following service areas:-

- Housing Services.
- Leisure and Community Services.
- Environmental Services.

Each plan contained details on the scope and aims of the service, key achievements and priorities for action, people and resources, national and local performance information, managing risks, energy efficiencies, improvements and partnerships, and the consultation and communication that had been undertaken.

Service Plans reflected the current themes and priorities within the Corporate Plan 2009 – 2014 and the South Derbyshire Sustainable Communities Strategy 2009 – 2029.

It was also confirmed that there would be a further presentation by each Head of Service at a separate Meeting.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That Service Plans for Housing Services, Leisure and Community Services and Environmental Services be approved as the basis for service delivery over the period to 2011.***

**HCS/6. UPDATED AND REVISED HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

A report was submitted informing Members of the strategic importance of the Housing Asset Management Strategy (AMS), both in terms of its impact on Housing Services and the wider Council. The Housing AMS was detailed in an Appendix to the report, and provided a framework for the effective management of the housing stock, in terms of maintenance and improvement works.

The Housing AMS was first produced in 2002, and this revision remained in accordance with good practice, ensuring that policies and procedures were up to date and relevant to current service delivery.

**RESOLVED:-**

***That the updated and revised Housing Asset Management Strategy be approved.***

**HCS/7. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (1st APRIL 2009 – 31st MARCH 2010)**

A report was submitted detailing the achievements for the year ending 31st March 2010, in relation to the current key strands of the Council's Corporate Plan 2009 – 14. The Corporate Plan Action Plan consisted of four main themes, of which this Committee was responsible for actions within the Safe and Secure and Lifestyle Choices themes.

Key achievements for the year ending 31st March 2010 were itemised, along with summary details of actual/outright performance against targets within the Corporate Plan.

Members were given further details on local performance indicator ES007, the tonnage of CO2 reductions arising from energy efficiency and improvements, community heat schemes and the re-letting of commercial properties. It was agreed that further details on CO2 reductions would be sent out in writing to all Members of the Committee.

With regard to performance indicator ES005, the cost of waste collection per number of households, it was confirmed that the target had been recorded incorrectly, and should have read £56.50. The actual cost for this year was £53.04. ES005 would now be taken out of the failure table.

**RESOLVED:-**

- 1) That the Council's key achievements and performance for the quarter ending 31st March 2010 be noted.***
- 2) That where performance has failed to achieve the specific target the response be noted.***

HCS/8. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members were asked to consider the updated work programme and to review its content where appropriate.

**RESOLVED:-**

*That the updated work programme be approved.*

HCS/9. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AS AMENDED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (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 22nd April 2010 were received.*

**SUPPORTED HOUSING SERVICES (Paragraph 2)**

*Members noted the progress of the Supported Housing Service review.*

**LAND AT ROSLISTON (Paragraph 3)**

*Approval was granted for the completion of a new lease.*

**PREMISES AT NEWHALL (Paragraph 3)**

*The freehold interest in a property was transferred.*

**PREMISES AT MIDWAY (Paragraph 3)**

*The demolition of the remaining structure of a property was approved.*

**THE MANAGEMENT OF FOSTON TRAVELLERS' SITE (Paragraph 2)**

*Changes in the management of the travellers' site were noted.*

**SEEKING EFFICIENCIES IN THE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE THROUGH A TENDER EXERCISE (Paragraph 1)**

*The Head of Environmental Services was authorised to form a shortlist of suitable companies to be invited to tender.*

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN