

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

9th June 2016

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

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

Labour Group

Councillors Rhind, Richards, Mrs Stuart and Taylor.

In attendance

Councillor Mrs Farrington (Conservative Group).

HCS/1

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Billings and Mrs Coyle (Conservative Group).

HCS/2

MINUTES

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st April 2016 were noted and approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

HCS/3

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

HCS/4

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/5

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/6

REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no Overview and Scrutiny Reports to be submitted.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/7 **SERVICE PLANS 2016/17**

The Director of Housing and Environmental Services and the Director of Community and Planning Services ran through the achievements for 2015/16 and the key plans and projects for 2016/17.

Councillor Mrs Farrington, having visited the new Council homes, commended them to the Committee. It was confirmed that the official opening of the new homes on Lullington Road, Swadlincote would take place on 7th July 2016 at 2.00pm.

RESOLVED:-

That the Service Plans for Community and Planning Services and Housing and Environmental Services were approved as a basis for service delivery over the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

HCS/8 **CORPORATE PLAN 2009-16: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT (1 JANUARY – 31 MARCH 2016)**

The Director of Housing and Environmental Services reported on the current situation, principally housing lets, fly tipping, Care-Line and the new tenancy agreement. The Director of Community and Planning Services did likewise, highlighting burglaries, play-scheme and cultural events participation.

Councillor Ford queried the fly tipping situation, his perception being that the issue appears to be worsening. The Director of Housing and Environmental Services referred to current activities regarding this issue, with a joint operation with neighbouring authorities being one option, also highlighting recent conviction successes and their associated publicity. Councillor Richards commented that a recent change in Derby City Council's recycling policy may have contributed to an increase in incidents within the District, but felt that a policy of zero tolerance was required.

Councillor Taylor commented on the bed and breakfast figures quoted in the report. The Housing Operations Manager clarified the figures quoted, emphasising an aim to reduce reliance on this particular option, looking to meet demand more with the Council's own housing resource.

Councillor Richards queried the delay in opening the Grove Hall leisure facility. The Director of Community and Planning Services confirmed the current situation and predicted that the opening was imminent.

Councillor Richards, referring to the Government's cessation of the Green Deal, requested an update on the assistance now available to those in fuel poverty. The Director of Housing and Environmental Services clarified the position, stating that new heating systems were still being installed into council homes.

RESOLVED:-

Members considered and approved the progress against performance targets.

HCS/9 **PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGY**

The Sport and Health Partnership Manager presented the report to the Committee, confirming that revisions are currently being made to the clubs directory, for distribution after the Olympics.

Councillor Ford queried why shooting sports were not better signposted. The Director of Community and Planning Services pointed to evidence of Council support, in terms of funding and bid support, but as it is not a mass participation activity, other options that involved greater numbers received more attention.

Councillor Mrs Farrington raised the issue of exercise for those in their later years, given the ageing population. The Sport and Health Partnership Manager referred to dementia friendly activities and other age related options. The Health Partnership Manager also referred to the Ageing Well programme.

RESOLVED:-

1) Members approved the process for the development of the new Physical Activity, Sport and Recreation Strategy.

2) Members approved the use of this strategy to maximize resource in the District and to apply for relevant funding streams as appropriate to deliver the outcomes that are set out within it.

HCS/10 **RESIDENT INVOLVEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

The Performance and Policy Manager presented the report to Committee.

Councillor Richards outlined his concerns regarding what appeared to be a lessening involvement of Members in this process, particularly in relation to scrutiny. The Director of Housing and Environmental Services clarified the statutory requirement for a Housing Scrutiny Panel, separate to the Overview and Scrutiny function. He commented that changes were often tenant driven, but fully accepted that Members need to be kept informed of the process.

RESOLVED:-

Members noted the changes made to the resident involvement arrangements, along with the achievements set out in the report and the plans for 2016/17, as also set out in the report.

HCS/11 **SOUTH DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL DEMENTIA ACTION PLAN**

The Health Partnership Manager presented the report to Committee.

Members fully supported the proposals being made and Councillor Mrs Farrington commented that, having attended a meeting in Erewash, how well received the work in South Derbyshire was being taken. In relation to how queries from a resident with dementia had recently been dealt with by Council staff, Councillor Ford also praised the scheme's effectiveness.

RESOLVED:-

Members approved South Derbyshire District Council's Dementia Action Plan that will support the district in becoming dementia friendly.

HCS/12 **SAFER SOUTH DERBYSHIRE PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2014-17 (2016 REFRESH)**

The Safer Communities Manager presented the report to Committee.

RESOLVED:-

Members approved the adoption of the Safer South Derbyshire Partnership's new Partnership Plan 2014-17 (2016 Refresh).

HCS/13 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN 2016-46**

The Strategic Housing Project Officer presented the report to Committee.

Councillor Richards raised the issue of pending legislation in relation to the provision made for the under 35 group and whether this had been taken into account. The Director of Housing and Environmental Services stated that Housing always attempted to meet fluctuating demands as dictated by changing legislation and were aware that it was proposed that the under 35 group would only meet single room allocation.

Councillor Richards also referred to an external report that highlighted the growing number of Universal Credit recipients falling into arrears and queried how prepared South Derbyshire was as the national Universal Credit programme continued to roll out. The Director of Housing and Environmental Services confirmed that the proposed restructure of Housing aimed to address this issue. The Strategic Housing Project Officer also referred to the risk management element of the proposals dealt with the less predictable issues in this area.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) Members approved the adoption of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan 2016 – 2046.***
- 2) Members granted authority to the Director of Housing and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Chair of this Committee, to agree any minor amendments to the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan.***

3) That the Committee review the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan every three years, or more frequently if there are significant changes.

HCS/14 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:-

Members considered and approved the updated work programme.

HCS/15 **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 21st April 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.

DEBTS SUBMITTED FOR WRITE-OFF: FORMER TENANT ARREARS

The Committee approved the recommendations made in the report.

HOUSING NEW BUILD: UPDATE AND PROPOSALS

The Committee approved the recommendations made in the report.

RESTRUCTURE OF THE HOUSING SERVICES OPERATION WITHIN THE HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (H&ES) DIRECTORATE

The Committee approved the recommendations made in the report.

LAND IN MELBOURNE

The Committee approved the recommendations made in the report.

The Meeting terminated at 7.50pm.

COUNCILLOR J HEWLETT

CHAIRMAN