

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

8<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**PRESENT:-**

**Conservative Group**

Councillor Hewlett (Chairman), Councillor Smith (Vice-Chairman), and Councillors Mrs Coyle, Grant, MacPherson, Murray, Stanton (substituting for Councillor Coe) and Mrs Wyatt

**Labour Group**

Councillors Dunn (substituting for Councillor Shepherd), Rhind, Richards and Taylor

HCS/83 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Coe (Conservative Group), Shepherd (Labour Group) and Tipping (Independent / Non-Grouped Member)

HCS/84 **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 were noted and approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

HCS/85 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

HCS/86 **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/87 **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/88 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no Overview and Scrutiny Reports to be submitted.

**MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE**

HCS/89 **CORPORATE PLAN 2016-21: PERFORMANCE REPORT (1 OCT-31 DEC 2017)**

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

Members voiced concerns regarding Universal Credit, the financial challenges it will present and the likelihood of increased arrears. It was agreed that the Chief Executive would issue a letter to the Member of Parliament for South Derbyshire, asking her to notify the relevant Minister of the Committee's concerns. It was also agreed that Members on relevant Outside Bodies could also raise their concerns in this respect. The Leader gave an undertaking to do so with regard to the Local Government Association and East Midlands Councils.

**RESOLVED:-**

***Members noted the progress against performance targets.***

HCS/90 **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHEME**

The Community Partnership Officer presented the report to Committee.

Members raised comments or queries relating to the initial contact with groups seeking funding, the need to address local needs, clarity regarding the delegated powers of the Grant Panel and membership of the Panel. The Community Partnership Officer confirmed that the Panel would be able to make single awards of up to £2,000 to cover professional fees and costs to secure planning permissions, but would be required to submit recommendations to the Committee in relation to larger sums.

Members also debated the inclusion of 50% in the recommendation relating to matched funding, some feeling that it might give the impression that this percentage was always granted when awards actually varied from 5%-50% and that it may not incentivise groups to seek alternative funding. The Community Partnership Officer confirmed that groups were routinely given assistance in seeking alternative funding, therefore often resulting in awards of less than 50% from the available funds.==

**RESOLVED:-**

- 1.1 Members agreed the proposals for a scheme to distribute the £250,000 of Capital funding that has been identified within the Council's budget and confirmed at the Finance and Management Committee on 15th February 2018.***
- 1.2 Members confirmed the requirement for 50% matched funding.***
- 1.3 Members agreed to authorise delegated powers to the Community Partnership Scheme Grant Panel Members to award project development grants. These grants to cover professional fees and costs to secure planning permissions subject to a maximum***

***single award of £2,000 and an overall maximum during 2018/19 of £20,000 (8% of the total grant pot).***

Abstentions: Councillors Dunn, Rhind, Richards and Taylor.

HCS/91 **CIVIL PENALTIES UNDER THE HOUSING AND PLANNING ACT 2016**

The Environmental Health Manager presented the report to Committee.

Members noted the preventative nature of the civil penalties, but appreciated that they may seldom be required. Comment was made on it needing to be a local policy / activity, not at a national level. The registration and checking of private rented premises was also queried. The Environmental Health Manager confirmed that there was currently no compulsion for private landlords to register their properties, stating that a mandatory scheme would require primary legislation. The Committee was informed that investigations were most often prompted by complaints received from tenants and/or third parties visiting the properties.

**RESOLVED:-**

***Members approved the proposed charging framework for the use of civil penalties for housing offences under the Housing and Planning Act 2016.***

HCS/92 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED:-**

***Members considered and approved the updated work programme.***

HCS/93 **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 Meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 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.***

**COMMUNITIES TEAM – SERVICE ASSISTANT (Paragraph 1)**

***Members approved the recommendations in the report.***

The Meeting terminated at 6.50pm.

COUNCILLOR J HEWLETT

CHAIRMAN