

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE: SPECIAL - BUDGET

12th January 2016

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Hewlett (Chairman), Councillor Smith (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Billings, Mrs Coyle, Mrs Hall (substituting for Councillor Mrs Coe), Harrison and Mrs Wyatt.

Labour Group

Councillors Dunn, Rhind, Richards and Taylor.

HCS/58 **APOLOGIES**

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

HCS/59 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Councillor Dunn declared a personal interest in Item 10 Housing New Build: Update and Proposals by virtue of being a governor at the Pingle School.

Councillor Hewlett declared a personal interest in the grants to voluntary bodies element of Item 6 Service Base Budgets 2016/2017 by virtue of being on the board of trustees for the CAB.

Councillor Mrs Coyle declared a personal interest in the grants to voluntary bodies element of Item 6 Service Base Budgets 2016/2017 by virtue of being on the board of trustees for Sharpes Pottery.

Councillor Smith declared a personal interest in the grants to voluntary bodies element of Item 6 Service Base Budgets 2016/2017 by virtue of being on the board of trustees for Homestart.

Councillor Mrs Hall declared a personal interest in the grants to voluntary bodies element of Item 6 Service Base Budgets 2016/2017 by virtue of being on the board of trustees for People Express.

HCS/60 **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/61 **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/62 **REPORTS OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

There were no Overview and Scrutiny Reports to be submitted.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/63 **SERVICE BASE BUDGETS 2016/2017**

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services presented the Report to Committee, highlighting issues relating to funding, expenditure, costs, service provision and risks, along with the proposed fees and charges.

Comments and queries raised by Members in relation to pre-tenancy service costs, the reduction in grounds maintenance expenditure and the increase in laser games fees were noted and responded to.

A proposal to limit the increase in grants to voluntary bodies to 1% was not supported by the Committee.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That the proposed revenue income and expenditure for 2016/17 for the Committee's Services, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be considered and referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.***
- 2) That the proposed fees and charges for 2016/17, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report, be considered and approved.***
- 3) That grants to voluntary and community bodies be increased by 2% in 2016/17 subject to approval by the Finance and Management Committee.***

HCS/64 **HOUSING STRATEGY 2016-2021**

The Strategic Housing Project Officer delivered the report to the Committee.

Councillor Richards commented on a property in Newhall that had been refurbished with assistance from the Council but not re-let, suggesting that a condition be applied to ensure properties are let in such circumstances. The Director of Housing and Environmental Services undertook to investigate the matter and respond to the Member.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That Members approve the Housing Strategy 2016-2021.***
- 2) That authority be given to the Director of Housing and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Chair of the***

Committee, to agree any minor amendments to the Housing Strategy.

HCS/65 **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.

HOUSING NEW BUILD: UPDATE AND PROPOSALS (Paragraph 2)

The Committee approved the recommendations contained in the Report.

The Meeting terminated at 6.35pm.

COUNCILLOR J HEWLETT

CHAIRMAN