

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

7th February 2013

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Lemmon (Chairman), Councillor Hewlett (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Ford, Harrison, Murray, Watson (substitute for Councillor Smith) and Wheeler (substitute for Councillor Mrs. Hood).

Labour Group

Councillors Dunn, Mrs. Heath, Mulgrew, Rhind, Shepherd and Stuart.

HCS/47. **APOLOGIES**

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

HCS/48. **MINUTES**

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th November 2012, were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

HCS/49. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Stuart declared a personal interest in Minute No. HCS/51, (2012 Legacy Programme – Igniting The Legacy), as a relative worked for a company who might be involved in work at Maurice Lea Memorial Park. Councillors Murray and Ford declared a personal interest in Minute No. HCS/58, (Lease Of Land At Church Gresley), as Members of Derbyshire County Council.

HCS/50. **QUESTION BY A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 11**

Councillor Ford submitted the following questions pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No. 11.

“Further to recent concerns and emails circulating regarding fuel poverty, what actions are this Council taking to help to alleviate fuel poverty for residents in this District?”

The Director of Operations responded that the Council had committed both its resources, and also those of grant funding bodies, into initiatives over a number of years across its own and the private sector housing stock.

In the current year the following investment in the Council’s own stock had taken place;

- Loft and external installation upgrades at a cost of £600,000 - (£568,000 grant funded).
- The installation of replacement doors which were energy efficient Homesafe doors at a cost of £180,000.
- The replacement of inefficient gas boilers and solid fuel appliances, with 'A' rated gas boilers at a cost of £810,000.
- Trials of air source, ground source heat pumps and biomass heating systems, to properties off the National Grid Gas Network, at a cost of £35,000.

In addition work within the private sector included:

- The Council had obtained £176,000 of grant funding to install 50 'A' rated boilers, assisted with boiler repairs or installed completely new heating systems where non currently existed. This funding had been made available from DECC and was awarded as part of a bid from the Local Authority Energy Partnership.
- As part of the bid the Council also purchased energy performance certificate data for South Derbyshire, and a database which provided detailed information regarding energy usage, property type and occupancy type. This would enable the Council to target those most in need of assistance.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/51. 2012 LEGACY PROGRAMME – IGNITING THE LEGACY

It was reported that a programme of activities put together by the Council, its partners, and the community during 2012 to celebrate the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics, had been greeted with tremendous enthusiasm and energy and had been widely acclaimed as a success. Whilst the Council had wanted to achieve this outcome, Members had also expressed a wish that 2012 be the start of a journey which provided a legacy for local people. Officers, along with key partners had taken on this challenge and produced a programme of projects, opportunities and events which would be branded as 'Igniting the 2012 Legacy'. Full details of the programme to be delivered, completed or launched during 2013 were detailed within the report, under the headings:

- Sport and recreation facilities
- Sport and physical activity participation
- Events and festivals
- Performance sport – development and support

A further consideration was to set a number of targets around activities which most directly linked to the legacy of 2012. These included increasing participation of physical activity and increasing the number of local people achieving county, regional, national and international representation. A table in the report showed targets which would be the responsibility of South Derbyshire Sport over the coming years.

RESOLVED:-

That the 2012 legacy proposal be approved, to include:

- ***the branding of new/enhanced facilities, activities and events.***
- ***the application to the Sport England Community Sport Activation Fund for assistance towards the ‘Igniting The Legacy’ participation project.***
- ***proposed plans and targets for increasing participation.***

HCS/52. **EUREKA PARK HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDING**

A report was submitted which advised Members of a grant offer from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the refurbishment of Eureka Park.

It was reported that the project was to repair and restore the heritage features of Eureka Park, and to deliver a community engagement programme to explore and celebrate the development of the park and its significance in local culture. Alongside the physical restoration work there would be a supporting community programme to rediscover the ‘Invisible Heritage’ of the park. A Community Engagement Officer would be recruited, to work with the park staff, Friends of Eureka Park and local groups to engage and involve a wide range of local people in the development and management of the park. It was confirmed that the Heritage Lottery Fund had awarded a grant of £547,316 towards the scheme which had a total value of £828,832. Full details of the plans for the park, plus the breakdown of project costs were also included within the report.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) ***That the grant offer from the Heritage Lottery Fund for £547,316, be accepted, and permission be given to start agreed works.***
- (2) ***That the recruitment of a Community Engagement Officer, funded by the grant, to deliver the project, be approved.***

HCS/53. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2013/14**

The Head of Corporate Services submitted a report which detailed the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) base budget for 2013/14, together with an updated financial forecast to 2024. The report also set out details of the proposed rent increase and options for 2013/14 under the Government’s National Rent Setting Policy.

The HRA’s base budget and 10-year financial projection were detailed in an appendix to the report, which showed a summary of each main income and expenditure head within the HRA for 2012/13 to 2023/24, together with the yearly surplus/deficit and balance on the HRAs general reserve. In addition further appendices showed the proposed base budget for 2013/14 compared to that projected in the previous 10-year financial projection, and also details of the overall reconciliation on the change between the previous and updated projections which showed the effect of changes to the proposed base budgets in 2013/14 over the 10-year planning period. Full details and explanations were provided on all of these matters, within the report.

Explanations were provided on the rent restructuring and proposed rent increase 2013/14, and it was confirmed that under self-financing, councils were expected to follow the National Rent Setting Framework, as applied under the previous subsidy system, and continue towards rent convergence by 2015/16. The Council's current average formula rent was below the national average and rent convergence had been designed to close this gap by 2016. However, as previously reported, convergence would not fully occur for South Derbyshire tenants by 2015/16 and it was currently estimated to be in 2018/19. This was due to the national formula previously capping increases for individual tenants each year, which had reduced average increases below that required by the formula. Full details and options were provided on rent increases, and an analysis of the increase along with the estimated effect on the base budget and 10-year projection were also provided.

Full details were provided on the HRA General Reserve.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That an average rent increase of 5.6% (£3.93 per week) be approved for 2013/14, in accordance with Government guidelines and tenanted properties.***
- (2) That the average rent increase be adjusted for individual tenants, in accordance with the Rent Restructuring Formula.***
- (3) That the proposed estimates of income and expenditure for 2013/14 for the Housing Revenue Account be referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.***
- (4) That the updated financial projection, including the associated assumptions and analysis for the Housing Revenue Account to 2024, be approved.***

(All Labour Members wished that it be recorded that they had voted against this decision).

HCS/54. **CORPORATE PLAN 2009 – 14: PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT**
(1st OCTOBER 2012 – 31st DECEMBER 2012)

Progress and achievements during the period 1st October to 31st December 2012, in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan 2009/14, were detailed within the report. Targets at risk of failure were highlighted, along with planned remedial action.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That progress and achievements during the period 1st October to 31st December 2012, in relation to the Council's Corporate Plan, be noted.***
- (2) That where progress has failed to achieve the specified target, the adequacy of remedial action taken, be considered.***

HCS/55. **WORK PROGRAMME**

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

RESOLVED:-

That the updated work programme be approved.

HCS/56. **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 29th November 2012 were received.

LEASE OF LAND AT CHURCH GRESLEY (Paragraph 3)

Members approved the lease of land at Church Gresley.

J. LEMMON

CHAIRMAN