

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE: SPECIAL - BUDGET

9th January 2018

PRESENT:-

Conservative Group

Councillor Hewlett (Chairman), Councillor Smith (Vice-Chairman) and Councillors Coe, Mrs Coyle, Grant, Mrs Hall, MacPherson, Muller and Mrs Wyatt

Labour Group

Councillors Rhind, Richards Shepherd and Taylor

HCS/60 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Billings (Conservative Group)

HCS/61 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Shepherd declared a personal interest in the grants to voluntary bodies element of Item 6 Service Base Budgets 2018 / 2019 by virtue of being on the board of trustees for the Citizens Advice South Derbyshire and Derby (CASDAD).

Councillor Hewlett declared a personal interest in the grants to voluntary bodies element of Item 6 Service Base Budgets 2018/2019 by virtue of being on the board of trustees for the Citizens Advice South Derbyshire and Derby (CASDAD).

Councillor Smith declared a personal interest in the grants to voluntary bodies element of Item 6 Service Base Budgets 2018/2019 by virtue of being on the board of trustees for Homestart.

Councillor Mrs Coyle declared a personal interest in the grants to voluntary bodies element of Item 6 Service Base Budgets 2018/2019 by virtue of being on the board of trustees for Sharpe's Pottery Heritage & Arts Trust Ltd.

Councillor Mrs Hall declared a personal interest in the grants to voluntary bodies element of Item 6 Service Base Budgets 2018/2019 by virtue of being on the board of trustees for South Derbyshire CVS and Community Arts Project ("People Express") Management Committee.

HCS/62 **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/63 **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.

MATTERS DELEGATED TO COMMITTEE

HCS/64 **CHANGES TO THE HOUSING STOCK**

The Performance and Policy Manager presented the report to Committee.

Councillor Muller welcomed the report and the subsequent recommendations to invest funds into developing Carnegie House and Pear Tree Court.

RESOLVED:-

Members noted the changes to the housing stock identified in the report and the planned actions to deliver these.

HCS/65 **SERVICE BASE BUDGETS 2018/19**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, outlining the savings identified in certain budgets and the risks associated with the use of some reserves, growth within the District and the effects of the reduction in core funding.

The Director also confirmed that fee increases were being proposed for cemeteries, specifically for the reservation of plots which would also be in line with the auditor's recommendation.

Councillor Richards sought clarification on the use of the Earmarked Reserves for Swadlincote Woodlands under section 2.6 of the report, and requested that the required funds be made available to complete the project. The Director responded advising the amount of funds that would be required and the Councillor was joined by the Chairman and other Members in support of this proposal.

Members raised queries relating the strategic housing license fee for traveller sites and why this was the first increase in three years. The Director advised that fees and charges are set to meet the cost of service provision.

The Chairman was joined by Members in agreeing that grants to voluntary and community bodies be increased by 2% subject to approval by Finance and Management Committee.

RESOLVED:-

Members approved:

- 1) ***That the proposed revenue income and expenditure for 2018/19 for the Committee's Services, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.***
- 2) ***That the proposed fees and charges for 2018/19, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report, were approved.***
- 3) ***That grants to voluntary and community bodies be increased by 2% in 2018/19 subject to approval by the Finance and Management Committee.***
- 4) ***That £15,000 of the Earmarked Reserves for Swadlincote Woodlands is made available to assist in completing an outstanding capital project.***

Abstention: Councillor Shepherd

HCS/66 **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET, FINANCIAL PLAN and PROPOSED RENT 2018/19**

The Strategic Director (Corporate Resources) presented the report to Committee, highlighting the key changes and possible effects of the statutory reduction of rent, reduction in the Supporting People Grant, Universal Credit and internal savings made through a restructure of Housing department.

Members sought clarification on housing stock in relation to the percentage of occupancies over five years, and information on rates of interest paid, to which the Director responded.

RESOLVED:-

- 1.1 ***That Council House Rents are reduced by 1% for Tenants with effect from 1st April 2018 in accordance with provisions contained in the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016.***
- 1.2 ***That the proposed revenue income and expenditure for 2018/19, together with the 10-year Financial Plan for the Housing Revenue Account as detailed in Appendix 1, are considered and referred to the Finance and Management Committee for approval.***
- 1.3 ***That the HRA is kept under review and measures identified to mitigate the financial risks detailed in the report and to maintain a sustainable financial position.***

HCS/67 **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.

HEALTH PARTNERSHIP MANAGER & PARK LIFE OFFICER

Members approved the recommendations in the report.

The Meeting terminated at 6.50pm.

COUNCILLOR J HEWLETT

CHAIRMAN