

Minutes of Health & Housing Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 2 August 2012, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor B Hilton (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Brunskill	E M H Ranson
C Conner	L Rimmer
R Hargreaves	M Robinson
J Holgate	C Ross
R Newmark	N Walsh

In attendance: Head of Regeneration and Housing, Head of Finance, Environmental Health Officer (Housing).

193 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Bibby, K Hind, S Hirst and R Moores.

194 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 May 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the following amendment.

Minute 66 - Second paragraph to read "Councillor Hilton also gave a brief update on the position with regard to Clitheroe Community Hospital. Her draft response on the East Lancs CCG Strategic Plan and the fact that Ribble Valley Borough Council had expressed an interest in becoming a dementia friendly Council".

195 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

196 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Daly asked to speak on agenda item 11 with regard to Beacon Fell View Caravan Site Licence. Mr Daly introduced himself as Chairman of the Caravan Owners' Association and was speaking on behalf of the residents on Beacon Fell View Caravan Site. He wanted to inform Committee that for a number of years there have been people living on the site as permanent residents with full knowledge of the current owner of the site, although they now deny this. He welcomed the efforts of the Borough Council in investigating the situation and asked that this continue.

197 PRESENTATION BY EAST LANCS HOSPITAL TRUST

The Chairman introduced Val Bertenshaw, Director of Operations and Dr Alan Crowther, Divisional Director for Community Services to the meeting. A presentation was given on the East Lancs hospitals becoming a Foundation Trust, why they should become one, how it would operate and key dates along

the timeline. She informed Committee that becoming a Foundation Trust would mean they would be independent of public benefit and free from Central Government control. They would also be locally representative and would aim to be a better provider of health care services. She gave Committee some information about the Regulator (Monitor) and their constitution. The presentation also included information about the Governors and their powers and how the Trust would operate over the East Lancashire area. Her Business Plan includes a strong quality theme throughout the document as well as way of delivering the benefits of an integrated health care provider. Key service developments include repatriation of orthopaedic activity, provision of urgent care pathology, vascular centre, immediate care, obstetrics and oncology.

At the end of the presentation Val Bertenshaw took questions from Councillors with regard to Local Authority representatives, funding, how our health and wellbeing partnership group would feed into the Trust and issues with regard to Ribble Valley isolation.

She asked that the Council make an official response to the consultation which closes on Monday, 6 August 2012.

The Chairman thanked them for attending the meeting.

198 CAPITAL OUTTURN 2011/12

The Director of Resources submitted a report seeking Member approval for the slippage of capital items from 2011/12 financial year to the 2012/13 financial year and to review the final outturn on the Capital Programme for 2011/12 for this Committee. The Capital Programme had consisted of 7 schemes of which there were 4 schemes with identified slippage into 2012/13. Details of these schemes were highlighted for Committee's information along with individual evaluation sheets of the Heads of Service.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the request for slippage on the 4 schemes as outlined totalling £125,870 into the 2012/13 financial year.

199 REPORTING ON PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Director of Resources submitted a report requesting Committee review the performance information reported and consider how they would like this information presented at future Committee meetings. The report reminded Committee that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's function of scrutinising performance has now been transferred to the relevant Service Committee. The report outlined the various performance indicators that were monitored by the relevant Heads of Service.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the Performance Indicators as set out in the report.

200 WELFARE REFORM ACT

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information on the Welfare Reform Act and the implications for residents claiming housing related benefits and the housing service. The report highlighted the main Welfare

Reform changes affecting the housing sector over the next 5 years which included universal credit, pension credit, direct payments, household benefit cap, size criteria/under occupancy and discretionary housing payments.

Some changes had already taken place whilst others would be introduced in the coming years. The significant impact on delivering the housing service and rehousing households would be as follows:

- Reduced housing benefit would further reduce the amount of affordable accommodation for households in receipt of benefit. This will put further pressure on temporary accommodation and the length of stay.
- No direct payments to landlords would discourage investment in the private sector and further discourage acceptance of tenants in receipt of benefit.
- All registered social landlords would incur additional costs of collection of rent which may ultimately reduce investment in development.
- Under occupancy was also a concern. There is limited availability of accommodation to allow households an option to downsize. Housing developers would need to consider developing/purchasing smaller units.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

201 BEACON FELL VIEW CARAVAN SITE LICENCE

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Committee to consider an application for a Site Licence. The report outlined the history of Beacon Fell View Holiday Park and the current issues on site. The current Licence was outdated and a revised application had recently been made by the current owners with up to date information on it. The report reminded Committee that Section 3 of the Caravan Site and Control of Development Act 1960 stated that if an applicant has the benefit of planning permission and applies for a Caravan Site Licence, the Local Authority must issue a Site Licence within 2 months of that date. This site has the benefit of planning permission and a condition would be included in the new Site Licence which stipulated that the caravans should only be used for the purpose of holiday accommodation and not as a permanent residence. This condition would also require the site owner to maintain and make available for inspection a suitable register with supporting evidence showing the details of the primary residence of the owner and/or occupier of the caravan.

Issues had arisen around this with regard to permanent residency on the site and the Borough Council were currently working with owners to resolve the current problems.

RESOLVED: That Committee note the intention to issue an amended Licence for Sam Hagan Leisure (UK) Ltd with the Council's approved licensed conditions.

202 CAPITAL MONITORING 2012/13

The Director of Resources submitted a report informing Committee of the progress with the Capital Programme for the first quarter of this financial year. Slippage from the previous year was also reported. He reported that to date, just

over 25% of the annual capital programme for this Committee had been spent. Other work was proceeding as expected and the majority of the budget was expected to be spent by the end of the year.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

203 REVENUE OUTTURN 2011/12

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Committee's information on the outturn for the financial year 2011/12 in respect of the revenue budget for this Committee. The report detailed by cost centre a comparison with the revised estimate which showed an overall underspend of £177,132 and decreasing to £128,541 after transfers to and from earmarked reserves. Details of the underspend was highlighted in the report with a summary of the major variations given.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

204 REVENUE MONITORING 2012/13

The Director of Resources submitted a report informing Committee of the position for the first 3 months of this year's revenue budget as far as this Committee was concerned. The report included a comparison by cost centre between actual expenditure and the original estimate for the period to the end of June. The main variations have been extracted for the items included in the red and amber shaded cost centres (ie specific areas of high concern) and shown with the budget holders comments and agreed action plans.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

205 HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP GROUP

The minutes of the latest Health and Wellbeing Partnership Group held on 20 June 2012 was submitted for Committee's information.

Councillor Hilton gave a brief update on the position with regard to Clitheroe Community Hospital.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

206 GENERAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Committee considered the general report of the Chief Executive which had been submitted to Committee for information which included the following items:

- Flood protection grant update.
- Ribchester.
- Clitheroe Market update.
- Environment Agency Liaison Meeting.
- Drinking Water 2011 Northern Region Report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

207 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the fact that the following items of business be an Exempt Information Under Categories 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

208 GENERAL REPORT – GRANTS

The Chief Executive submitted details of four disabled facilities grants and one boiler replacement grant that had been approved.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

209 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted an update on the affordable housing schemes in progress and proposed in the borough. These had been split into – applications which had been submitted, and were either approved or waiting determination subject to Section 106 Agreements being completed.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

210 REMODELLING OF ACCOMMODATION BASED SUPPORT

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of a change to the delivery of support at the hostel and supported accommodation and to consider options available in terms of re-commissioning the contract. The report outlined the background and issues surrounding the delivery of support at both The Joiners and The Sidings in Clitheroe. Support was currently provided by separate service providers which was quite different at each facility. Concerns had been raised with regard to the service at The Joiners and the Supporting People Commissioning Board had accepted a recommendation not to renew the contracts for the two services when they expire on the 31 March 2013 but to run a competition under the Supporting People Framework Agreement to appoint a single provider to commence 1 April 2013 and increase the re-model service by 8.5 additional hours per week in line with the Supporting People Draft Hours Modelling Tool.

The service provided by the support provider was very much working alongside the same priorities as the housing service and therefore the Council tendering for the contract would be investigated as an option.

RESOLVED: That Committee note the change to the support provision and agree for the Housing Section to investigate the advantages of the Council tendering to provide the service for which an options paper would be submitted to Corporate Management Team.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Marshal Scott (414400).