

## Minutes of Health & Housing Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 24 January 2013 starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor S Hirst (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Bibby	R Newmark
S Brunskill	E M H Ranson
R Hargreaves	L Rimmer
B Hilton	M Robinson
K Hind	N Walsh
J Holgate	

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Head of Environmental Health Services and Housing Strategy Officer.

### 601 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors C Connor, R Moores and C Ross.

### 602 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 603 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

### 604 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 605 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012/2013

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to approve the revised capital programme for the current financial year for this Committee. The original capital programme for the current year included schemes at a total estimated cost of £285,000. Additionally £122,740 of the budget from 2011/2012 was moved to the 2012/2013 financial year at the time of setting the revised estimate for 2011/2012. In addition, £125,870 known as slippage had been transferred into this financial year along with further approvals to the capital programme of £121,560 which gave a total approved budget of £655,170. A table outlining the revised capital programme for 2012/2013 was submitted for Committee's information which totalled £464,300. A sizable amount of the current year's budget was recommended for transfer into the 2013/2014 financial year.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the revised capital programme for 2012/2013 as set out in the report.

606 PROPOSED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2013/2016

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to approve the proposed future three-year capital programme 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 for this Committee for recommendation to Special Policy and Finance Committee. The report was based on the bids that had been received from Heads of Service which included schemes previously requested for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015. Heads of Service had been asked to put forward schemes which were the absolute basic requirement to keep the Council's services running. A list of these schemes and how each particular scheme links to the Council's ambitions were shown in a table that also showed the financial impact for each financial year. It was noted that at this stage, these were only potential bids that would also require further consideration by the Budget Working Group and by Special Policy and Finance Committee.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the future three year programme for 2013/2014 to 2015/2016 as outlined in the report for recommendation to the Special Policy and Finance Committee.

607 REVISED REVENUE BUDGET 2012/2013

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to agree a revised revenue budget for 2012/2013 for consideration at Special Policy and Finance Committee. The original estimate for this current financial year was approved in March 2012 and at the time of setting the current year's budget, the government had announced substantial reductions in the level of funding that it would provide to local authorities from 2011/2012 and into 2012/2013 with no indication of what level of funding would be provided in the longer term. Based on the information known at the time, a full service review was undertaken in 2011 in order to identify areas of potential saving. All of those put forward were considered and approved by Policy and Finance Committee on 22 November 2011. Following the grant settlement in December 2011 the amount of savings needed for 2012/2013 were £635,000 which was fully achieved from the service review savings identified. The revised budget for this Committee was £42,270 higher than the original estimate. A comparison between the original and revised budgets for each cost centre was shown with the main reasons identified.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the revised budget for 2012/2013 for submission to the Special Policy and Finance Committee subject to any further consideration by the Budget Working Group.

608 ORIGINAL REVENUE ESTIMATE 2013/2014

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to agree to a draft revenue budget for 2013/2014 for consideration at Special Policy and Finance Committee. She informed Committee that the government announced its provisional grant settlement for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 on 19 December 2012 and that the headline changes to our funding shows a reduction in our

spending power of 1.3% with a further reduction of 3.2% the year after. However, when a comparison is made between the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 grant settlements on a like for like basis, the cash reduction in our grant is £288,000 and a further £377,000 the following year. This was particularly disappointing when it had looked a few months ago as if rural authorities including Ribble Valley would have been treated more favourably in this settlement. The Rural Services Network and SPARSE group were campaigning vigorously to get the settlement changed. The Budget Working Group would be meeting over the coming weeks to examine the overall budget position and would ultimately make recommendations to Policy and Finance Committee on 12 February 2013.

To allow a better comparison of the budget to the original estimate within this report, the budget that was originally approved in March 2012 had been restated to show the movements that were needed following the service reviews. The estimates had been prepared on the current levels of service and allowed for pay and price increases of 2.5%. Any pay award for local government would be agreed nationally and whilst this was still being negotiated, indications are that any settlement would be nearer 1%.

The report detailed the individual budget areas under this Committee along with comments and reasons for the main variances. The draft budget was also summarised in two ways; one over the cost centre of the service (objective) provided by the Committee and the other over the type of expenditure and income (subjective).

The net cost for this Committee would increase by £127,280 for which the main variances had already been highlighted. The Director of Resources reminded Committee that fees and charges had been agreed in November 2012 and would be applicable from 1 April 2013. Members asked questions with regard to various issues included in the budget report and the Director of Resources explained the changes from Council Tax benefit to the localisation of Council Tax support and the impact that that would have.

**RESOLVED:** That Committee agree the revenue budget for 2013/2014 as outlined for the submission to the Special Policy and Finance Committee subject to any further consideration by the Budget Working Group.

609            **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 and included items on recent application for flood protection grant at Whalley, the Environment Agency liaison meeting and an update on Clitheroe Cemetery extension.

610            **MINUTES OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP GROUP**

The minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Group meeting held on 10 January 2013 were submitted for Committee's information. Councillor Hilton also

gave a brief update regarding the day service consultation at Clitheroe Community Hospital and the ideas for the year of health and wellbeing.

Discussion around the subject of Dementia also took place and it was resolved to invite the lead GP for dementia to attend the next Health and Wellbeing Partnership Group.

611 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.

612 LANCASHIRE SUPPORTING PEOPLE FUNDING DISTRIBUTION FORMULA

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of a proposed introduction of a formula to distribute Lancashire's Supporting People funding. The supporting people programme is responsible for the planning, commissioning and procurement of housing related support services which enable people to develop independent living skills. The funding for this programme had recently been transferred into the area based grant that had become part of Lancashire County Council's mainstream funding and as such, the County Council were considering a new formula for the distribution of the funds. A range of models had been considered which included various percentages of need and deprivation. The Lancashire County Council officers were currently recommending the option based on 75% need and 25% deprivation, which would have a reduction effect on Ribble Valley. A table outlining the impact of each allocation formula was submitted for Committee's information.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. support allocation of supporting people funding on a 100% needs basis; and
2. investigate the supporting people allocation and the method of distribution in other rural districts outside Lancashire.

613 GENERAL REPORT – GRANTS

The Chief Executive submitted details of four disabled facilities grants that had been approved.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

614 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.

Councillors had a discussion on affordable housing and how our policy fits with the Core Strategy. Several questions were asked about the housing waiting list and housing needs surveys.

RESOLVED: That

1. the report be noted; and
2. the Housing Strategy Officer be asked to do a report to Committee regarding the housing waiting list.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

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