

## Minutes of Health & Housing Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 4 September 2014 starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor B Hilton (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Bibby	L Rimmer
S Brunskill	M Robinson
R Hargreaves	C Ross
J Holgate	I Sayers
S Hore	J Shervey
R Newmark	

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Environmental Health Services, Head of Financial Services, Head of Regeneration and Housing and Senior Accountant.

### 223 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Hill and R Sherras.

Councillor K Hind was not in attendance.

### 224 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 225 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

### 226 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 227 FOOD HYGIENE INTERVENTION PLAN 2014/2015

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Committee to consider and approve the Ribble Valley's Food Hygiene Intervention Plan 2014/2015. Guidance issued by the Food Standards Agency continues to require local authorities to produce a food hygiene intervention programme relating to food law enforcement and to set out how they would meet their statutory obligations. Particular attention was drawn to the contents of Part 7 of the programme which reviewed the performance of the service against last year's performance plan and also set out proposed areas for improvement for the forthcoming year. It was reported that later this year, enforcement responsibility for allergens in food was to transfer from Trading Standards to Environmental Health.

The exact resource implications of this were still to be determined with relevant staff needing appropriate training to achieve and ensure relevant competency. Several areas were highlighted within the programme, with particular reference to the borough's food premises and the fact that 97.5% of the borough's food premises were generally compliant.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the Ribble Valley Borough Council Food Hygiene Intervention Plan 2014/2015 for implementation in the current financial year;
2. note the satisfactory performance in relation to the identified areas for improvement in the previous year's Food Safety Plan; and
3. reconfirm the continuing priority of food premises inspection for environmental health provision.

228 REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE 2013/2014

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information on a review of the service delivery key local performance indicators within the environmental health service for 2013/2014. The key issues included food hygiene, health and safety, pollution control, caravan sites, private water supplies, pest control and dog warden service, general complaints and emergency planning.

Ongoing high performance had been achieved throughout the past 12 months in most areas and especially in relation to response times to service requests. However, it had again not been possible to achieve the programme for health and safety premise inspection targets and caravan site relicensing, due to a variety of operational reasons. However, the service continued to receive significant levels of complaints and every effort would continue to be made to achieve all service targets.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

229 AFFORDABLE WARMTH BID

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of the availability of grant for vulnerable households in Ribble Valley at risk from cold and damp houses. Lancashire County Council was making funding available to district councils to deliver high impact affordable warmth interventions to individuals who are the most vulnerable to harm from cold or damp homes. The funding was subject to LCC approving applications. The report included the bid as submitted.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

230 DFG FUNDING UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of the Lancashire County Council consultation and proposed changes to the disabled facilities grant process. This had been prompted by the introduction of better care fund and NHS England planning guidance to allocate DFG funding to upper tier (LCC)

rather than directly to local authorities. A copy of a presentation attended by the Chairman and Housing Strategy Officer was included for Committee's information.

RESOLVED: That a letter be written to the Lancashire County Council informing them that in the opinion of Ribble Valley Borough Council, the DFG process should not be changed.

231 AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEEDS DATA ACROSS THE BOROUGH

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of the current affordable housing needs data across the borough. The housing needs surveys are a key source of evidence when supporting affordable housing development and take place on a rotation basis, although pressure from developers with proposals in parishes often decides the border of priority of new surveys to be undertaken. The importance of maintaining an up to date affordable housing needs data on a Parish basis was acknowledged.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

232 CAPITAL MONITORING 2014/2015

The Director of Resources submitted a report providing Committee with information relating to the progress of the approved capital programme for this year. Slippage from the previous year was also reported. To date just over 34% of the annual capital programme for this Committee had been spent or committed and it was noted that the majority of the capital programme for this Committee was grant related. Expenditure was driven by the applications that are received for this funding and currently they are at a low level of applications for a number of the grants that are available. This would be likely to change as the year progressed.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

233 REVENUE OUTTURN 2013/2014

The Director of Resources submitted a report on the outturn for the financial year 2013/2014 in respect of the revenue budget for this Committee. There was an overall underspend of £137,585 for this Committee and after allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves, this decreased to £88,002. The main variations for this underspend were highlighted.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

234 REVENUE MONITORING 2014/2015

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Committee's information on the position for the first four months of this year's revenue budget as far as this Committee was concerned. The variations between budget and actuals had been split into groups of red, amber and green variance. These were highlighted for Committee's information. At this stage, the comparison between actual and budgeted expenditure shows an overspend of £14,211 for the first four months of

the financial year 2014/2015. After allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves, the overspend is reduced to £4,389.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

235 2013/2014 YEAR END PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Committee's information outlining details of performance against our local performance indicators. Regular performance monitoring was essential to ensure that the Council is delivering effectively against its agreed priorities both in terms of the national agenda and local needs.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

236 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 private water supplies risk assessment progress, dog control orders, local government declaration on tobacco control and north west energy task force – local benefits of shale gas extraction.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

237 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from representatives on outside bodies.

238 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.

239 GENERAL REPORT – GRANTS

The Chief Executive submitted details of 8 disabled facilities grants and 4 boiler replacement grants.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

240 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.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.

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