

Minutes of Health & Housing Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 22 January 2015, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor B Hilton (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Bibby	S Hore
S Brunskill	R Newmark
R Hargreaves	M Robinson
K Hind	I Sayers
J Holgate	R Sherras

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Head of Regeneration and Housing, Housing Strategy Officer and Senior Accountant.

524 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors J Hill, L Rimmer and J Shervey.

525 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

526 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

527 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

528 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2014/15

The Director of Resources submitted a report requesting Committee's approval of the revised Capital programme for the current financial year for this Committee. The original Capital Programme for 2014/15 had been approved by Policy and Finance in February 2014 and since then regular updates had been presented quarterly to this Committee on progress with the Capital Programme. The original Capital Programme had included schemes at a total cost of £262,560. Slippage from the previous year totalling £34,690 has been added to the programme.

A transfer from the landlord tenant grant budget to the disabled facilities grant budget of £63,270 had taken place following approval by Policy and Finance Committee in October 2014. These adjustments resulted in a total capital programme of £297,240.

Each of the schemes in the Capital Programme had been discussed in detail with budget holders and the revised programme had been formulated to reflect the

likely expenditure this year. It was highlighted that the repossession prevent fund may not be fully spent in year, however any unspent budget would be carried forward.

The revised estimate was calculated to be the same as the total approved budget at £297,240. It was anticipated that all the capital schemes would be completed by the end of the current financial year, subject to demand for the repossession prevention fund.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the Revised Capital Programme for 2014/15 as set out in the report.

529 PROPOSED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/18

The Director of Resources submitted a report seeking Committee's approval for the proposed future 3 year programme 2015/16 to 2017/18 for this Committee.

The report viewed the draft programme of schemes to be carried out in the following 3 years based on the bids that had been received from Heads of Service. The scheme bids for this Committee were outlined in detail showing how each particular scheme linked to the Council's ambitions. It was noted that at this stage these were bids that would require further consideration by the Budget Working Group and Policy and Finance Committee who would want to ensure that the budget was both affordable in capital and revenue terms. It was also noted that the bids contained in the report only represented those submitted with regard to this Committee's services and they would be considered alongside other bids received from other Committees.

The Director of Resources also informed Committee that only the Disabled Facilities Grants scheme has potential external funding identified. It is estimated at £161,000 currently, but this is based on the allocation for 2015/16. If the funding allocation changes in future, then the budget for the scheme will change to reflect that.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the 3 year Capital Programme 2015/16 to 2017/18 outlined in the report; and
2. recommend to Policy and Finance Committee the programme as outlined for this Committee's services.

530 REVISED REVENUE BUDGET 2014/15

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to agree a revised Revenue Budget for 2014/15 for consideration at Special Policy and Finance Committee. The original estimate for this current financial year had been set in March 2014. To allow a better comparison of the budget to the revised estimates to the original estimates the changes were outlined in table format for Committee's consideration.

In conclusion, the revised estimate is £32,550 lower than the original estimate. After taking into account transfer to and from earmarked reserves the revised estimate is £60,300 lower than the original estimated.

The Director of Resources highlighted and explained the main changes included in the revised estimate.

RESOLVED: That

1. Committee approve the revised Revenue Budget for 2014/15; and
2. further reports be submitted to Committee as outlined.

531 ORIGINAL REVENUE BUDGET 2015/16

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to agree the draft Revenue Budget for 2015/16 for consideration at Special Policy and Finance Committee. She reminded Committee that the 3 year forecast to Policy and Finance Committee in September had showed that significant reductions to the overall Council budget would be necessary based on our indicative grant allocation from the Government.

A provisional settlement funding assessment had now been received and this represented a reduction of 14% in our 2015/16 core government funding and a reduction of 1% in our 2015/16 spending power. Looking further ahead, we have assigned core funding reductions of 10% in 2016/17 and 5% in 2017/18. The Budget Working Group had been meeting regularly to consider the Council's budget and had suggested four options to address any shortfall:

- Whether the Council Tax should be increased for 2015/16.
- Examination in detail of our underspends and overspends to ensure our base budget is accurate.
- Consider increasing the amount of New Homes Bonus we use to finance the Revenue Budget.
- Examination of how much Business Rate growth we can realistically expect to rely upon.

With regard to Health and Housing Committee's draft Revenue Budget for 2015/16 the estimates had been prepared on the current levels of service allowing for a settled pay award of 2.2% and price increases of 2%.

Individual budget areas for this Committee were shown in detail including reasons for the main variations between the 2014/15 original estimate and the 2015/16 original estimate. The report also showed the draft budget summarised both objectively and subjectively for Committee's information. The Director of Resources also explained some of the main variations and answered Members' questions.

The Director of Resources reminded Committee that they had agreed the increase in fees and charges in October 2014 on an average of 2% which would be applicable from 1 April 2015.

In conclusion the proposed estimate for 2015/16 is £833,880 after allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves. Net expenditure has increased by £1,270 between the 2014/15 original estimate and the 2015/16 proposed original estimate.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the Revenue Budget for 2015/16 to be submitted to Special Policy and Finance Committee subject to any further consideration by the Budget Working Group.

532 REQUEST TO PRESTON BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR NOMINATION RIGHTS

Committee's approval was sought to make a request to Preston Borough Council for affordable housing nomination rights. Committee were informed that over 12 months ago as part of the Core Strategy requirement to consult with neighbouring authorities, discussions had been held with Preston Borough Council regarding sites in Longridge that were on the boundary between Ribble Valley and Preston Borough Council.

These sites had now secured planning permission and we had received enquiries from registered providers as to whether Ribble Valley Borough Council would support development of affordable housing schemes on the sites. Clearly any affordable units developed on the sites would most likely meet the housing needs of the residents of Longridge and the nearest Preston settlements would be Grimsargh or Whittingham.

The nominations agreement would set out that on the first allocations the units would be shared between the two boroughs and any future allocations would be on alternate arrangements with one to Ribble Valley and to Preston. This matter had been reported to the Strategic Housing Working Group on 8 December 2014 where it had been agreed that the request should be reported to this Committee.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree that a written request is made to Preston Borough Council to agree a 50% nomination agreement on a site by site basis where sites border Ribble Valley Borough Council.

533 AUTHORISATION OF ALTERNATIVE PROPER OFFICER

Committee were asked to consider and confirm revised arrangements in relation to the authorisation of proper officer appointments with the Public Health Organisations.

Committee were reminded that as a district council Ribble Valley Borough Council was required to authorised medical officers to give advice and act on its behalf in relation to a variety of legislation.

Recently there had been significant changes in both associated legislation and the structure of organisations and their personnel who could provide this service on the Council's behalf. Some of these services were now provided through the Offices of Public Health England, Cumbria and Lancashire Health Protection Team based at Chorley on behalf of Public Health England, whilst responsibilities under the National Assistance Act remain vested in the borough council but undertaken by Public Health Team at County level.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree the following authorisations:

1. for Section 84 and 85 Public Health Act 1936 and Section 27 Public Health Act 1961, Sections 48, 61 and 62 of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 and the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010 - proper officer Dr Ken Lamden – Health Protection Team and alternative proper officers Dr John Asbury, Grainne Nixon, Kate Brierley and Nicola Schinaia;
2. for the National Assistance Act 1948 and the National ‘Assistance (Amendments) Act 1951 – proper officer delegate to this Council’s Chief Executive to appoint a proper officer nominated by Lancashire County Council Public Health Team on a case by case basis.

534

WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

Committee were asked to support the White Ribbon Campaign and to decide how best the Council could promote and become involved in the Campaign.

Committee were informed that the aims of the White Ribbon Campaign were:

- promote respectful relationships and non-violence in all aspects of life;
- mobilise men to support anti-violence against women which increases the message in effectiveness and reaches all Lancashire communities;
- address and alter social norms that lead to violent behaviour against women and increasing awareness on the issue.

The White Ribbon Campaign was being led and co-ordinated by Lancashire County Council who had already signed up key agencies which were supporting and driving the Campaign. These agencies were as follows:

- Lancashire Constabulary;
- Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service;
- Office of Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool Unitary Councils.

In addition to this Lancashire County Council were keen to enlist the support of all Lancashire District Councils.

An action plan will be developed by Officers to raise awareness throughout the Ribble Valley. Councillor support for the Campaign is seen as vital as all Lancashire districts were encouraged to sign up to the Campaign.

Members were also asked to give some thought to the choice of a Champion or strong advocate who could act as spokesman for the campaign. There was some discussion amongst Members about who would be most appropriate in this instance and it was felt that with elections coming up a senior politician may not be the most appropriate person.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree to become a White Ribbon Council and to take an active part in the Campaign;
2. develop an action plan along the lines now identified in the report; and
3. agreed that thought should be given to the names of people who could be approached to become a Champion for the Ribble Valley White Ribbon Campaign.

535 AFFORDABILITY OF RETIREMENT ACCOMMODATION

Committee were informed of an all-party inquiry into the affordability of retirement accommodation. This inquiry had identified a number of particular issues including the fact that some 8 million people over 60 in 7 million homes were interested in downsizing and 83% of over 60's were owner/occupiers and in most regions 50-60% of those could afford to buy purpose build retirement apartment or bungalow.

There were a number of recommendations for this inquiry including spreading the use of alternative ownership models, tackling costs, reducing the cost to buyers (help to move), equity loans, stamp duty exemption and help to improve the financial advice and information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and this report be submitted to the Housing Working Group for further consideration.

536 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN RIBBLE VALLEY UPDATE

Committee received an update report on current issues relating to the changing in public health and the NHS as they relate to Ribble Valley.

The most fundamental change was to move responsibilities for public health from the former Primary Care Trust to the Lancashire County Council and to create clinical commissioning groups to direct priorities and manage the commissioning and delivery of patient services at a much more local and clinically led level.

A consequence of these changes is to have in place a number of new organisations to deliver the change each of which had needed time to bed in and each of which had a different range of responsibilities. These bodies included the County Council with a new role for public health, hospital trust delivering acute services, clinical commissioning groups who commissioned services but were clinically led, the NHS England and NHS Lancashire which was soon to merge with NHS Manchester which were responsible for the delivery of NHS services.

Ribble Valley Health and Wellbeing Partnership provide Committee with a dedicated working group to ensure issues could be considered and in areas interest could be reported through at the various levels of representative bodies that the Council worked with.

Mention was also made the Government has recently sought to align more closely the funding for delivery of acute services through hospitals and GPs and social care funding. In Lancashire the better care fund submission had been overseen by Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board which is a body set up to ensure the delivery of appropriate services. Ribble Valley area falls within 3 clinical commissioning groups: East Lancashire, Blackburn with Darwen and Central Lancashire. The majority of joint working had been done with East Lancashire and Ribble Valley Borough Council is a member of the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

537 HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

The notes of this meeting held on 8 December 2014 were noted by Committee.

538 GENERAL REPORT

Committee considered the general report of the Chief Executive which dealt with the following issues:

- Private water supplies risk assessment progress.
- Environment Agency liaison meeting.
- Hanson Cement application for variation.
- Food Standards Agency audit of approved premises.
- Local authority Carbon dioxide emissions estimates 2012.
- Mid-year report on environmental health/food control.

Members then discussed this matter in some detail.

RESOLVED: That

1. the report be noted; and
2. this report be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee for further consideration.

539 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.

540 GENERAL REPORTS – GRANTS

The Chief Executive submitted details of four disabled facility grants and four boiler replacement grants.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

541

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted a list of affordable housing schemes in progress and proposed in the borough. The table separates them into two sites that had received pre-application advice and sites where an application had been submitted and was either approved or awaiting determination subject to a Section 106 Agreement being completed.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.32pm.

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