

Minutes of Health & Housing Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 23 March 2017 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor S Hore (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Bibby	B Hilton
S Brunskill	K Hind
P Dobson	R Newmark
P Elms	M Robinson
M Fenton	R Sherras
L Graves	J White
R Hargreaves	

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Regeneration and Housing, Head of Environmental Health Services, Strategic Housing Officer.

Also in attendance: Phil Mileham – Castle Medical Group and Kirsty Hamer – East Lancashire CCG.

605 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor R Elms.

606 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Updates were given on Minute 487 to confirm a response had been submitted to the consultation on the closure of Calderstones Hospital, and on Minute 489 to confirm that Farmers Markets will commence on Thursday, 6 April 2017 and be held thereafter on the first Thursday of each month in 2017 with the exception of November.

607 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest.

608 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

609 RIBBLESDALE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Phil Mileham and Kirsty Hamer gave a presentation to Committee on the work that they and others were carrying out to develop and commission health and care services over the Ribblesdale area, which is comprised of the GP practice

areas for Clitheroe, Sabden Slaidburn and Whalley. They explained the strategic approach being adopted national, regionally and locally. At the most local level, work was being carried out to develop Multi-Disciplinary Partnerships and Ribblesdale Community Partnership was the pilot for the Pennine Lancashire area.

The partnership was 3 or 4 months old, and had held a number of meetings, including GPs, Ribble Valley Borough Council, the voluntary sector and other bodies with responsibility for health, wellbeing and care. There had been some difficulty in engaging with Lancashire County Council. The partnership had prepared a number of strategies and policies, and had established priority plans to include development of more joined up nursing care and responsibilities, children's and young people services, third sector involvement, affordable warmth and addressing accessibility and transport issues for provision of health and care services locally.

In response to questions it was explained that, at this stage, the participants were working together around the table without pooling their funds or budgets. Consideration could be given to work across the wider borough, as many residents in the west and south west of the Ribble Valley fall within the area of the Preston and Blackburn CCGs.

The Chairman thanked Phil and Kirsty for their very informative presentation, and suggested that it would be helpful to receive an update in 6 months.

610 ANIMAL WELFARE ENFORCEMENT POLICY AND LICENCE CONDITIONS

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the publication of new Model Conditions and Guidance by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health in respect of various aspects of animal welfare regulation, and submitted a draft Animal Welfare Enforcement Policy together with draft conditions for consideration by Committee. Committee were informed that around 20 establishments in the Ribble Valley are licensed, and that there have been no prosecutions of any licensed premises.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve

1. the Animal Welfare Enforcement Policy; and
2. the revised licence conditions for:
 - Dog breeding establishments
 - Cat boarding establishments
 - Home boarding establishments
 - Pet shops

611 DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS POLICY AMENDMENTS

The Chief Executive submitted a report proposing revision of the private sector housing policy to improve the Disabled Facilities Grants process, and

consultation on this proposal with a view to introduction of the new process for a 12 month trial from 1 June 2017. There were three proposals within the process.

Firstly, it was intended to optimise the use of the Disabled Facilities Grant allocation by fast-tracking certain applications, without means testing, which would apply where only one item of adaptation was required and by reference to a specific list of works. Secondly, subject to budget availability, it was proposed to introduce provision for a discretion to allow additional funds of up to £10,000 above the maximum mandatory grant figure of £30,000. Thirdly, it was proposed to introduce a 10% professional fee applicable to each Disabled Facilities Grant and non-Disabled Facilities Grant application, which would be an increase from the previous 5% fee but would still leave Ribble Valley at the lowest level in Lancashire.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree with the revised scheme as set out in proposals 1, 2 and 3 contained in the report;
2. approve a consultation period of 4 weeks to receive any views from Lancashire County Council and the Council's delivery partners and subject to a consultation feedback implementation of the new process would begin on 1 June 2017; and
3. the Chief Executive to monitor the new process and report back to Health and Housing Committee after 12 months of operating the new scheme.

612 STRATEGIC HEALTH UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted a report on current and emerging strategic health work, including a Health Audit assessing Council services impacting on the health and wellbeing of Ribble Valley residents and visitors as at March 2017, and a description of the proposals for the priorities, strategies and role descriptions for Health Champions.

The purpose and value of the Health Audit was explained, together with its place in the hierarchy of strategic plans for provision of health and wellbeing services.

The Health Champions initiative was in the course of development, and discussions were being held with Lancashire County Council to establish whether the Ribble Valley Health Champions initiative could be delivered as a pilot across the county.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the current direction and progress of Ribble Valley Borough Council strategic health projects;
2. note the purpose and content of the Health Audit and agree that work progress towards the delivery of a strategic health delivery plan; and

3. agree to the delivery of the Health Champions pilot initiative in the Ribble Valley.

613 WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the progress of the Council's involvement in the White Ribbon Campaign, raising awareness of domestic abuse, and advising Members of the actions required to extend the Council's participation in the campaign for a further 2 years. A detailed draft action plan had been prepared for consideration by Committee, prior to submission to White Ribbon for their approval.

The Committee endorsed the draft plan, with one amendment being recommended in that the Council should record an additional action 'Not to encourage sex establishment venues' in the borough rather than the draft phrasing of 'Set a zero limit on sex establishment venues' which could be open to challenge.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree to support the pan-Lancashire White Ribbon Campaign by agreeing the actions contained in the action plan attached to the report, subject to the amendment stated above.

614 MICROCHIPPING OF DOGS

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Members of the powers conferred by the Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 and seeking authority to authorise officers to enforce the regulations. In conjunction with the Dogs Trust, a number of events had been organised at venues in the borough to provide free microchipping and advice to dog owners. There was discussion about the possibility of training and authorising the Dog Wardens to carry out microchipping.

RESOLVED: That Committee authorise the Chief Executive and Head of Environmental Health Services to undertake the requirements of the Act.

615 OLDER PEOPLES' SERVICES

Councillor S Bibby gave a report on the work and progress that had taken place with the Older Peoples Champions Network and the Dementia Action Alliance since the last report in March 2015. She had prepared a very helpful written breakdown of the work carried out, and gave details of the organisations and services providing assistance and support to older people and those affected by dementia. She highlighted the valuable contribution provided by Dilys Day in the provision and support of these services.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Bibby for her report.

616 PRESENTATION BY THE DOG WARDENS ON RESPONSIBILITY OF DOG OWNERS IN THE RIBBLE VALLEY

The Dog Wardens had not been able to attend this meeting. In their absence, the Head of Environmental Health Services advised Committee of the work being carried out by the Dog Wardens in the community and at schools educating the public and children with regard to issues such as dog fouling, stray dogs and responsible dog ownership.

617 PET SAFE SCHEME

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information on an initiative being undertaken by the Dog Wardens to ensure short term care of pets in an emergency. The scheme, originally developed by Pendle Borough Council in conjunction with Lancashire Constabulary, sought to make arrangements for care of pets of vulnerable or single people admitted to hospital in an emergency. The scheme involved completion of a form by the pet owner, recording their own and their pet's details and, crucially, the emergency pet carer's details. The Dog Wardens were distributing forms at their presentations and hoped that this initiative could be linked with the NHS.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

618 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/2018

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Committee's information on the schemes which had been approved for inclusion in the capital programme for the Committee for the 2017/2018 financial year. This included three schemes which totalled £386,000 (including £175,000 for Clitheroe Market improvements where the scheme was currently on hold). Responsible officers would complete and update capital monitoring sheets for each scheme, which would be reported quarterly to Members to give an indication of process. This was particularly important for the Disabled Facilities Grants.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

619 HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

The notes of the meetings of the Ribble Valley Health and Wellbeing Partnership held on 5 December 2016 and 30 January 2017 were noted by Committee.

620 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

621 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 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

622

GENERAL REPORT – GRANTS

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information of approval of four disabled facilities grants, one boiler replacement grant and three affordable warmth grants. No new landlord tenant grants had been approved since the last report to Committee.

181 applications had been made for household property flood resilience grants of which 175 have been approved, and 115 completed. 63 applications were still to be completed of which 10 had been partially completed with interim payments made. Officers had been working with applicants to facilitate grant application and approval where possible in relation to listed buildings, but approval was deferred in three cases pending listed building consent.

35 business applications had been received of which 31 had been approved and 16 completed and paid. 15 were still to be completed. One application had not been approved, pending determination of listed building consent. In respect of three applications, the business owners had decided not to continue with a scheme.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

623

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information with the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Housing Working Group held on 23 January 2017 and 6 March 2017.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

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