

Minutes of Health & Housing Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 25 May 2017 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor B Hilton (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Bibby	R Hargreaves
S Brunskill	K Hind
P Dobson	R Newmark
R Elms	M Robinson
M Fenton	R Sherras
L Graves	R Thompson

In attendance: Head of Regeneration and Housing, Head of Environmental Health Services, Strategic Housing Officer, Senior Accountant.

Not in attendance: Councillor P Elms.

Before the meeting commenced, those present stood for a minute in memory of the victims of the Manchester bombing.

50 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor J White and the Chief Executive.

51 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

52 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

53 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

54 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

Committee considered the appointment of working groups that belong to this Committee and their arrangements/membership.

- Strategic Housing Working Group – 3 Conservatives (Councillors S Brunskill, K Hind, R Sherras), one Liberal Democrat (Councillor M Robinson), and the Chair of Planning and Development Committee.

- Health and Wellbeing Partnership – 4 Conservatives (Councillors B Hilton, S Bibby, S Brunskill, R Newmark), one Labour (Councillor M Fenton) and one Liberal Democrat (Councillor M Robinson).

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the appointment of the Strategic Housing Working Group and the Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

55 FIXED PENALTY NOTICES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME ENFORCEMENT

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking Committee's approval of new Fixed Penalty Notices, the level of charges and discount for prompt payment, and reaffirmation of Fixed Penalty Notices as an enforcement tool arising from a range of legislative measures. The report identified the offences to which Fixed Penalty Notices applied, and the functions on which payment received from Fixed Penalty Notices could be spent.

RESOLVED: That

1. Committee approve the use of Fixed Penalty Notices and their fine levels for the offences listed in the report at paragraph 3.20;
2. Committee approve and delegate to the Head of Environmental Health Services if any changes in legislation occur and subsequent fees, that this can be implemented without Committee approval; and
3. the Head of Environmental Health Services be requested to prepare a report to the next meeting of this Committee on the role of dog wardens, including the equipment available to them and information on the number of recorded incidents of verbal abuse or threatening behaviour towards dog wardens.

56 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, requesting consideration of powers to issue Community Protection Notices for a range of anti-social behaviours, and Criminal Behaviour Orders, and to seek agreement of the sum for Fixed Penalty Notices issued under this legislation.

The Community Protection Notice was intended to deal with particular ongoing problems or nuisances which negatively affect the community's quality of life, by targeting the individual responsible. Breach of a Community Protection Notice could result in a Fixed Penalty Notice for which income received by the authority should be used to fund further work in the area of anti-social behaviour.

The Community Behaviour Order (replacing the Anti-Social Behaviour Order on conviction and the Drinking Banning Order on conviction) was available on conviction to address the most serious and persistent offenders and could include prohibitions on certain types of behaviour and include requirements to address the underlying causes of the offender's behaviour.

RESOLVED: That

1. Committee approve the Council's scheme of delegation in the Constitution be amended to include provision that the Head of Environmental Health Services be given delegated authority to enforce the provisions of the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014; and
2. the amount payable for Fixed Penalty Notices issued under the Act be set at £100 paid within 14 days, reducing to £75 if paid within 7 days.

57

DISABLED FACILITIES GRANTS POLICY CHANGES

The Chief Executive submitted a report proposing revision to the Disabled Facility Grants policy to improve the current process, taking into account comments made during the consultation period. Observations in response to consultation by the occupational therapists of Lancashire County Council and the NHS had been taken into account. Four proposals had been formulated: to optimise the use of the Council's disabled facilities grant allocation; to introduce the provision to allow a discretionary grant above the disabled facilities grant maximum (subject to budget availability); to introduce a 10% fee applicable to each disabled facilities grant and non-disabled facilities grant application; and to commission the use of private occupational therapists. We are still awaiting a response from the Lancashire County Council Better Care Fund to confirm that the new proposals will be allowable under the National Disabled Facilities Grant award conditions as agreed under social care capital projects.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. agree with the revised DFG scheme as set out in Proposals 1, 2, 3 and 4 contained within the report;
2. implement the revised scheme from 1 June 2017 subject to LCC confirming the proposals meet the BCF grant award conditions; and
3. instruct the Chief Executive to monitor the new process and report back to this Committee after 12 months of operating the new scheme.

58

RIBBLESDALE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted a report, updating Committee on the progress of the Ribblesdale Community Partnership, and advising Members of priority work areas. An action plan had been developed by reference to five priority areas. The Council was taking responsibility for the workstream to deliver actions for the community to live happy, healthy and well. It was intended to seek to work with Blackburn with Darwen and Central Lancashire CCGs to provide for areas of the Ribble Valley which were not within the area covered by the Ribblesdale Partnership.

RESOLVED: That Committee note the progress to date and endorse a focus on the living happy, healthy and well work stream as being most appropriate for the Council

and instruct the Chief Executive to explore opportunities to extend the project with other relevant partners.

59 CLITHEROE CEMETERY

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of the implementation of the new cremated remains plot installed at Clitheroe Cemetery and seeking agreement of Committee of the new cemetery charge which had been applied. Beams were now being provided as a stable base for memorial plaques, and the increased charge incorporated this cost.

RESOLVED: That Committee note the report and approve the implementation of the new Cemetery charge with immediate effect.

60 FOOD HYGIENE INTERVENTION PLAN 2017/2018

The Chief Executive submitted a report introducing and seeking Committee's approval of the Ribble Valley Borough Council Food Hygiene Intervention Plan for 2017/2018. The legislative background was explained, and a summary of the service in 2016/2017 was provided. Members noted the statistics and satisfactory performance in the year.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the Ribble Valley Borough Council Food Hygiene Intervention Plan 2017/2018 for implementation in the current financial year;
2. note the satisfactory performance for the year 2016/2017; and
3. reconfirm the continuing priority of food premises inspections for environmental health service provision.

61 PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER – PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDERS FOR DOG CONTROL IN THE RIBBLE VALLEY

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking Committee's approval in principle for the introduction of Public Space Protection Orders in respect of dog control within the Ribble Valley, and to authorise officers to commence the process of publicising and consulting on the proposed orders. Legislation provided for transition of existing Dog Control Orders to become Public Space Protection Orders in October 2017, and the Head of Environmental Health Services recommended that the scope of existing orders be reviewed in readiness for this change, so as to provide for smooth transition after consultation which would identify current requirements.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve, in principle, the proposal to make Public Space Protection Orders for dog control within Ribble Valley; and

2. authorise officers to publicise the proposed orders and carry out consultation as required by the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 and to report back to this Committee for final approval.

62 CHARGING SCHEME FOR FOOD SAFETY RESCORE INSPECTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL FOOD HYGIENE RATING SCHEME

The Chief Executive submitted a report detailing the Council's responsibilities in respect of attendance at food premises and issue of ratings under the scheme coordinated by the Food Standards Agency. Where premises had been awarded a score less than the maximum 5, after undertaking necessary improvements, they were entitled to request a rescore with a view to achieving an improved score. It was proposed to introduce a change to recover Council costs for revisits requested by food businesses.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree to the introduction of a flat rate charge of £153 for rescoring visits requests received from food businesses.

63 LICENSING OF HOUSING IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking approval of licensing policy changes, recommendation of a fee structure and additional charges to implement the licensing regime.

There had been an increase in requests to licence homes in multiple occupation in recent months. Committee were advised of the definition of a home in multiple occupation, and that a demand for bedsit and similar single person accommodation had been noted. A draft policy was presented for consideration by Committee (which could be introduced with amendment of one fee) together with explanation of the proposed fee structure.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve

1. the adoption of the Environmental Health Housing Licensing Policy for properties in the private rented sector; and
2. the introduction of charges with immediate effect for mandatory licensing in the scheme as outlined in item 3.15 of the report.

64 CAPITAL OUTFURN 2016/2017

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to review the final outturn of the Capital Programme for 2016/2017 and seeking approval of the slippage of some capital scheme budgets from the 2016/2017 financial year to the 2017/2018 financial year. The capital programme for the Health and Housing Committee consisted of three schemes. Overall, 45.5% of the revised estimated budget had been spent in 2016/2017. Reasons were given for this shortfall, and Committee were advised that funds taken forward would be ring-fenced for the schemes highlighted.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the slippage of the budget into the 2017/2018 financial year for:

- Disabled facilities grants; £170,130
- Landlord/tenant grants; £25,520
- Affordable warmth/capital grants; £14,540

65 HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY ANNUAL REPORT

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information on the service completed by Homewise, the home improvement agency in the Ribble Valley for 2016/2017. Records of the services and physical aids supplied were produced, along with monitoring records and expressions of satisfaction by residents.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

66 DELIVERY OF AFFORDABLE UNITS IN 2016/2017

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information, including a breakdown of the provision of affordable rent, shared ownership and discount sale units at different locations across the borough. 100 dwellings of various types have been provided in total.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

67 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION NOTICES AS AN ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ENFORCEMENT TOOL

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information on the use of Community Protection Notices as an environmental protection tool. The legislative background was set out, identifying the introduction of more generic powers to replace 19 existing powers targeted at specific types of anti-social behaviour. Members were advised of the considerations and procedures involved, and the powers available.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

68 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2017/2018

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information on the membership of outside bodies that come under the remit of the Health and Housing Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

69 HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

The notes of the meeting held on 27 March 2017 were noted by Committee.

70 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.

71 PROPOSED PURCHASE OF A LEASEHOLD FLAT

The Chief Executive submitted a report on an offer received by the Council for it to buy the remaining one third of a leasehold property, of which the Council already own two thirds. The property had been surveyed and valued independently. Subject to confirmation from DCLG, it was recommended to proceed with the purchase of the balance of the property, and to use the property to assist in meeting the Council's statutory housing duties.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the purchase of the remaining component of the property and instruct the Chief Executive to proceed with the acquisition of the premises and to put in place necessary and appropriate measures for management of the accommodation in support of the Council's housing duties.

72 GENERAL REPORT – GRANTS

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information of approval of 8 affordable warmth grants. No new disabled facilities grants or landlord/tenant grants had been approved since the last report to Committee.

182 applications have been made for household property flood resilience grants for which 180 had been approved, 144 fully completed and 36 were still to complete (6 of which had been the subject of interim payments). Two owners had decided not to proceed with a scheme.

36 business applications had been made of which 32 had been approved. 20 of these were fully completed and paid, and 8 were still to complete. There was one outstanding application for a listed building, where an application for listed building consent was yet to be determined. In the case of 3 applications, the business owners had decided not to proceed with a scheme.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm.

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