

## Minutes of Health & Housing Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 7 September 2017, starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor B Hilton (Chairman)

Councillors:

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

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

### 214 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Elms and M Fenton.

### 215 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Hind referred Members to Minute number 54 and that as the following week Policy and Finance Committee were to consider the new corporate structures which included an objective that Ribble Valley Borough Council become a Dementia Friendly Council. In that regard it was proposed to set up a working group to work towards the introduction of Dementia Friendly Council status for the Council. It was intended that there should be five Members (Councillors Hilton, Bibby, P Elms, K Hind and Robinson) and that they should report back to the next meeting of this Committee. Committee supported this action.

The Head of Environmental Health Services referred to Minute 61 and gave a verbal update on the consultation exercise with regard to proposed extension of the effect of Dog Control Orders on the introduction of Public Space Protection Orders in October 2017. The consultation had now been completed with 186 direct responses, nearly 400 responses to an on-line consultation set up by a member of the public and over 2,000 signatures to a petition. A full breakdown of the public consultation process would be reported to the October meeting of the Committee for consideration by Members.

### 216 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

### 217 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

218 HEALTH AND SAFETY INTERVENTION PLAN 2017/18

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking Committee's approval of Ribble Valley Borough Council's Health and Safety Intervention Plan for 2017/18. The plan set out standards for proactive work, taking into account priorities issued by the Health and Safety Executive. The focus was on high risk operations and increased information for small businesses to be made available in an accessible and relevant form.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the Ribble Valley Borough Council Health and Safety Intervention Plan 2017/18 for implementation in the current financial year.

219 CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Chief Executive submitted a report as an overview of the Christmas Market activities proposed in Clitheroe Market in 2017. In order to extend the retail offer around the full market area, the proposed charge was to be set at £15 per stall or pitch (including VAT) which was set to encourage traders who have not previously visited the event. This charge will operate on the Christmas Market festive period dates of 2, 9 and 16 December.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the recommendation of a non-refundable fee of £15 including VAT for a pitch or stall during the festive period upon the market; and
2. show commitment to the Christmas Market and the retail trade within this area during the festive period.

220 NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING TENURE OPTIONS

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of the availability of additional affordable tenure options, being the "rent to buy" model and the "DIY shared ownership" model and requesting Committee's approval of further investigation of these models.

The DIY shared ownership model would be available for purchase of properties other than on new developments. Details of both of the schemes were provided to Members, along with background information about Heylo, who would be the provider in support of both schemes.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve that these new models of delivering affordable housing be fully investigated and reported back to this Committee.

221 REVISION OF THE STRATEGIC HOUSING WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chief Executive submitted a report requesting that Committee accept revised and updated terms of reference of the Strategic Housing Working Group, to reflect the current issues and objectives of the group. Members considered the proposed terms of reference, which were approved with minor amendment.

RESOLVED: That Committee accept the amended revised terms of reference for the Strategic Housing Working Group.

## 222 UPDATE ON DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT AMENDMENTS

The Chief Executive submitted a report, updating Committee on proposed revisions to the Disabled Facilities Grants policy. The amendments that had been proposed and approved by Committee in May 2017 had not been approved by Lancashire County Council as a “social care capital project” as set out in the Better Care Fund. However, the proposals could be covered by the Regulatory Reform Order 2002 and this was set out in the Integration and Better Care Planning Requirements 2017/19, and this course of action would be investigated.

Committee were advised that four occupational therapists had been appointed for the Hyndburn/Ribble Valley area since the report had been prepared, which could address the reduced number of referrals which had been received.

Members queried the earliest date at which the amendments could be implemented, and considered that the scheme should be brought into operation before the next meeting if it was found to be lawful.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve that the introduction of discretionary grant policies is investigated and reported to the next Health and Housing Committee;
2. if the investigation at 5.1 establishes that the policy can be introduced pursuant to the Regulatory Reform Order 2002, delegate the introduction to the Chief Executive to implement the amended policy without further reference to Committee.

## 223 CAPITAL MONITORING 2017/18

The Director of Resources submitted a report providing Committee with information relating to progress of the approved Capital Programme for this year. As at the end of July 2017, only 15.8% 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. The largest area of underspend was Disabled Facilities Grants. Expenditure was driven by the applications received for these grants, which depended on recommendations and referrals by occupational therapists. The appointment of new occupational therapists and possible confirmation of the amended Disabled Facilities Grant scheme may enable more eligible applications to be received.

The underspend on the Landlord Tenant Grants budget was due to a major application failing to gain planning approval, meaning that scheme was unlikely to proceed in 2017/18. Housing officers were encouraging applications for further schemes in the current year.

It was noted that the scheme for Clitheroe Market improvements was on hold, awaiting final plans for the Clitheroe Market Development Scheme.

Lancashire County Council had paid the Council a further £10,251 of 2016/17 Affordable Warmth Capital grant monies in 2017/18 which the Council had been unable to claim in 2016/17 under the original rules of the scheme. Subject to budget approval by Committee, this sum could be used for further affordable warmth grant payments in 2017/18.

RESOLVED: That Committee recommend approval to Policy and Finance Committee of an additional capital budget of £10,250 for affordable warmth-capital grants. The additional budget would be funded by additional affordable warmth grant already received from Lancashire County Council.

#### 224 DOG WASTE BAG INITIATIVE

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information, advising Committee of the distribution of free dog waste bags to Parish Councils. Dog fouling was a high profile subject, attracting many complaints annually.

The scheme, which had been implemented, enabled communities to request more free dog waste bags in areas where they considered persistent dog fouling arising from irresponsible pet owners to be a particular problem. It was intended that this be achieved by working in partnership with Parish Councils, who would appoint a champion for distribution of waste bags as required.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### 225 REVIEW OF DOG WARDEN SERVICE

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information, outlining the current service, as had been requested by Committee in May 2017. The report detailed the history of the service and issues relating to provision of the service. These issues included health and safety matters, service costs, the job description and duties, stray dogs, dog fouling, dog waste bins, training and personal protective equipment, equipment contained in the van, and considerations for the future of the service. An analysis of current performance was provided.

Members considered the balance of enforcement against education of the public, the adequacy of current staffing, and publicity to alert the general public to the wider issues.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### 226 WORKING PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DOGS TRUST – UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information updating Committee on the partnership events being held in conjunction with The Dogs Trust. The next event was due to be held in Longridge on 8 September 2017. The records for three previous events were provided for Members' information, with the Sabden event having attracted the best attendance.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

227 2016/17 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 was delivering effectively against its agreed priorities, both in terms of the national agenda and local leads.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

228 REVENUE OUTTURN 2016/17

The Director of Resources submitted a report on the outturn for the financial year 2016/17 in respect of the revenue budget for this Committee. There was an overall underspend of £196,873 for this Committee and, after allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves, the underspend decreased to £36,911. The main variations related to this underspend were highlighted.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

229 REVENUE MONITORING 2017/18

The Director of Resources submitted a report relating to the progress of the Committee's 2017/18 revenue budget as at the end of July 2017. The comparison between actual expenditure and budget to date showed an underspend of £79,525, as at the end of July 2017. After allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves, the underspend was decreased to £28,061. The main variations related to this underspend were highlighted.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

230 HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

The notes of the meeting held on the 6 July 2017 were noted by Committee.

231 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.

232 REQUEST TO WAIVE DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT REPAYMENT

The Chief Executive submitted a reporting outlining a request by the recipient of a discretionary grant for waiver of the obligation to repay the grant on sale of the property within 10 years of payment of the grant. Committee considered a letter of request and the notice of approval of the grant. Members were advised of the circumstances which gave rise to the exercise of discretion in the award of the original grant, subject to the 10 year condition which had been accepted by the applicant. Members considered all the circumstances which had been put forward by the applicant.

RESOLVED: That Committee decline the request to waive the grant repayment.

233 DCLG DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GRANT AWARD

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information that approval had been granted for a request to waive procurement rules for a contract to deliver domestic violence support services across the borough – part of a Lancashire wide DCLG bid. This had enabled prompt delivery of the service, part of the core provision of refuge and accommodation based services across Lancashire for victims of domestic violence.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

234 GENERAL REPORT – GRANTS

The Chief Executive submitted details of eight Disabled Facilities Grants, one Landlord and Tenant Grant, and seven affordable warmth capital grants.

Of the 180 property level flood resilience grants that had been approved, 161 applications had been fully completed and payment made. Of the balance of 19, work was complete in 9 subject to resolution of snagging issues, work had commenced for 8 and work was yet to commence for 2. Of the 32 business applications approved, 27 had been completed and payment made, with 5 still to complete. Officers were increasing efforts to ensure timely completion of each scheme before the closure of the Government programme.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.31pm.

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