

## Minutes of Health & Housing Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 6 June 2019, starting at 6.00pm  
Present: Councillor B Hilton (Chairman)

Councillors:

J Alcock	B Holden (6.23pm)
S Atkinson	A Knox
T Austin	D O'Rourke
D Birtwhistle	D Peat
J Hill	M Robinson
M Hindle	R Sherras

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

Not in attendance: R Elms.

Also in attendance: Councillors B Buller, J Clark, S O'Rourke and J Schumann.

### 45 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor R Newmark.

### 46 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

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

### 48 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 49 BRIEFING ON THE WORK OF THE HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

The Chief Executive informed Committee of the arrangements for the Health and Housing Committee including details as to Lead Officer, Committee Clerk and Officers that would usually attend this Committee, some rules about how the Committee is conducted and information about declarations of interest. He also explained the colour coding of the agenda and reminded Members to dispose of Part 2 items properly.

Terms of Reference for the Committee were circulated for Members' information and a brief explanation of Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest was given.

The Head of Regeneration and Housing, the Head of Environmental Health Services and the Strategic Housing Officer gave resumes of the service areas covered under their remits.

50 APPOINTMENTS TO WORKING GROUPS 2019/20

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Committee to appoint Members to any working groups under the remit of the Health and Housing Committee and their membership.

Committee were reminded that working groups are set up by the parent Committee to aid them in reaching decisions on specific aspects of their remit. The working groups under the remit of this Committee were highlighted and the officers recommended which ones they felt should be re-established. Numbers were reviewed to consider political balance resulting in one additional Member on the Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the continuance of the Strategic Housing Working Group and the Health and Wellbeing Partnership with their membership as follows:

- Strategic Housing – Councillors B Hilton, S Atkinson, R Sherras, M Robinson, A Brown.
- Health and Wellbeing – Councillors B Hilton, S Atkinson, M Hindle, D Peat, M Robinson, D O'Rourke, D Birtwhistle.

51 PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN LONGRIDGE

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report asking Committee to consider a proposal for the commitment of £234,000 of commuted sum monies received from a development at Barnacre Road, Longridge for the purchase of 2 affordable properties in Longridge.

A Registered Provider, Moss Care St Vincent's, with a long record of working in partnership with the Council has agreed to consider entering into a Lease Agreement to oversee management of the properties. The Registered Provider would have all day-to-day management and repair responsibilities for the properties and the Agreement to secure this arrangement has been drafted.

This would be the first pilot scheme in Longridge with a view to replicate similar scheme across the borough as and when commuted sum monies are received and also to consider using Council monies.

Committee discussed the various aspects of the proposal and raised several queries and requested a report from officers to explore how the scheme may be extended to villages.

RESOLVED: That:

1. Committee approve the principle of the purchase and delegate authority for the Chief Executive to negotiate the purchase of 2 units in Longridge utilising the commuted sum;

2. Moss Care St Vincent's will be the management partner subject to the approval of a Lease Agreement to be delegated to the Chief Executive to allow the management and maintenance of the properties to be provided by a Registered Provider (MSV) in return for an agreed percentage share of the rental income;
3. Committee approve this model as an option for future use of commuted sum monies across the borough and that the project is monitored and Committee are kept informed as appropriate;
4. Committee recommend to Policy and Finance Committee to approve the 'Purchase of Affordable Housing Properties in Longridge' capital scheme for inclusion in the 2019/20 Capital Programme with a budget of £234,000; and
5. officers report to the next meeting on how the scheme may be extended to villages in the borough and the future strategy of the scheme.

52 FUNDING FOR HOMEWISE

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report asking Committee to approve the award of a grant to Homewise Home Improvement Agency to support them in delivery of the service. Homewise had been the home improvement agency for the Ribble Valley since 2014, commissioned by Lancashire County Council and funded through the Better Care Fund. Ribble Valley Borough Council has annually provided additional funding to support delivery of the service. Members were advised of the terms of the Grant Funding Agreement. Committee discussed issues around Homewise's funding from Lancashire County Council and the Strategic Housing Officer noted quarterly reports of the scheme.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the grant award of £5,650 to Homewise to support delivery of the service.

53 FOOD HYGIENE INTERVENTION PLAN 2019/2020

The Chief Executive submitted a report introducing and seeking Committee's approval of the Ribble Valley Borough Council Food Hygiene Intervention Plan for 2019/2020. The legislative background was explained, and a summary of the service in 2018/2019 was provided. Members noted the statistics and the satisfactory performance in the year.

RESOLVED: That Committee:

1. approve the Ribble Valley Borough Council Food Hygiene Intervention Plan 2019/20 for implementation in the current financial year;
2. note the satisfactory performance for the year 2018-19; and
3. reconfirm the continuing priority of food premises inspection for Environmental Health service provision.

54 HEALTH AND SAFETY INTERVENTION PLAN 2019/2020

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking Committee's approval of Ribble Valley Borough Council's Health and Safety Intervention Plan for 2019/2020. 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, large events and risks associated with increased prominence of 'hot tubs/spa pools'.

RESOLVED: That Committee:

1. approve the Ribble Valley Borough Council Health and Safety Intervention Plan 2019/20 for implementation in the current financial year' and
2. note the performance in relation to 2018-19.

55 CAPITAL OUTTURN 2018/19 AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2019/20 UPDATE

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to review the final outturn of the Capital Programme for 2018/2019 and seeking approval of the slippage of some capital scheme budgets from the 2018/2019 financial year to the 2019/2020 financial year. Overall 49.9% of the revised estimate budget had been spent in 2018/2019.

Reasons were given for the underspends on the three Housing Grants Schemes and Committee were advised that budget slippage taken forward to 2019/2020 would be ring-fenced for the schemes highlighted.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the requests for slippage shown at Annex 2 and approve the slippage of the following budgets into the 2019/20 capital programme:

- Disabled Facilities Grants, £360,120;
- Landlord/Tenant Grants, £84,240;
- Affordable Warmth – Capital Grants, £6,920.

56 GRANT AWARD FOR RAPID REHOUSING PATHWAY

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report to inform Committee that a joint bid was submitted to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for the Rough Sleeping Rapid Rehousing Pathway Funding 2019/2020.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council took the lead on the East Lancs submission of the bid. The proposal was to employ navigators across the region to work with rough sleepers. The navigator would identify issues, provide support and coordinate a supported move into secure accommodation.

The proposal would be:

- Burnley, Pendle, Rossendale – 2 navigators;
- Blackburn, Ribble Valley – 2 navigators;
- Hyndburn – 1 navigator.

Blackburn would take the lead on the shared Ribble Valley and Blackburn with Darwen navigators and would be the host for both of the posts. The total value of the approved bid is £139,000.

Further detail has yet to be confirmed with regard to the details of the bid, however the report is to notify Members that the bid was successful and that a shared navigator will be post in the forthcoming months.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

57 HANSON CEMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings of the Hanson Cement Liaison Committee held on 21 March 2019 were circulated for Committee's information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

58 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2019/2020

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of the Outside Bodies that were under the remit of the Health and Housing Committee and their membership.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

59 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.

60 RATIFICATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONTRACT

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report to request Committee ratification for the approval of a Domestic Violence Support Contract to deliver a support service in the borough.

Committee was informed that a bid for funding was submitted by Lancashire County Council for the support and provision of domestic violence services across Lancashire, including the service to be provided in Ribble Valley. The Ribble Valley service will provide 1.5 full time equivalent outreach workers to support victims of domestic abuse in the borough up to at least March 2020.

The previous grant-funded scheme was very successful and having a service that supports victims within the borough as opposed to travelling outside the borough has been well utilised. This new service provides similar support but with an increase in staff availability of 0.5 FTE.

The scheme funding is received by the Council from Lancashire County Council and payment is made by the Council to the scheme provider, HARV. In appointing HARV as the scheme provider, an exemption from normal

procurement rules was submitted due to the specific nature of the service and there being only one provider for such a service in the borough. The request for exemption was agreed by the Council's Solicitor and the Director of Resources following consideration of procurement rules.

RESOLVED: That Committee approves the arrangement as outlined in the report.

61 GENERAL REPORT – ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of relevant issues which have arisen in the last 6 months whilst the Head of Environmental Health Services was on maternity leave. The Head of Environmental Services outlined staffing changes in the service and reported on areas within the service.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

62 LEVELS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN RIBBLE VALLEY

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report to provide information about levels of domestic violence reported in the Ribble Valley. Data and key statistics regarding domestic violence are collated and reported to the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Domestic Violence Forum and a police intelligence analyst prepared the report.

Members were informed that domestic violence is a serious issue in Ribble Valley and there is a significant annual increase in the number of incidents reported. Members appreciated this is a sensitive issue and welcomed the increase in provision provided within the borough.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

63 GRANTS

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report to inform Committee of recent approvals for 9 Disabled Facilities Grants, 3 Ribble Valley Adaptation Grants, and 7 Affordable Warmth Capital Grants. No new landlord tenant grants have been approved since the last Committee report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

64 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report to inform Committee on the affordable housing schemes in progress and proposed in the borough. Members were informed that 91 new affordable homes were delivered in 2018/2019.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.

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