

## Minutes of Health & Housing Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 18 March 2010 starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor S Hirst (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Brunskill	M Robinson
R Hargreaves	C Ross
B Hilton	J S Sutcliffe
M Fielding	D Taylor
E M H Ranson	J Waddington

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Development Services, Environmental Health Manager, Financial Services Manager

Also in attendance: Councillor M Sutcliffe.

### 890 APOLOGIES

An apology for lateness was received from Councillor Hargreaves who arrived at the meeting at 7.05pm.

### 891 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2010 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 892 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

### 893 MATTERS ARISING

#### (a) Minute 729 – Future Development of Clitheroe Hospital

Councillor Ranson referred to comments made by representatives from the Primary Care Trust on “holding the PCT to account” and raised concern at the total lack of consultation by the Primary Care Trust or their agents on the siting of the alcohol and drugs outreach facility off York Street, Clitheroe which had recently been given planning consent by the Planning and Development Committee. He felt that the first Ribble Valley Borough Council knew about the proposal was via the planning application and he felt that there should have been prior consultation before any planning application was lodged. He felt that the Council could then have considered all aspects of the proposed facility and not just the planning issues.

Other members echoed Councillor Ranson’s comments and concerns.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive write to Steve Spoerry the Chief Executive of the East Lancashire PCT expressing the Council's concern at the total lack of consultation on this matter and asking for an explanation of the facility and a promise of closer partnership working and consultations on this type of issue in the future;

- (b) Minute 733 – Consultation Paper on Encouraging Landlords to Release Land for Affordable Housing

Councillor Taylor expressed some concerns about this legislation and felt that it was inappropriate. Both the Chairman and the Chief Executive explained that the main idea was to gain early release of land for affordable housing.

#### 894 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PLAN

The Environmental Health Manager asked Committee to consider and approve the Ribble Valley Borough Council Environmental Health Plan for 2010/11. He explained that the plan had been first drafted in January 2010. In particular he drew Members attention to the identification of savings/income generation and also to efficiencies achieved by the service in 2009/10.

He highlighted as key issues the following:

- to secure a budget of £4,500 for providing 20 additional dog waste bins;
- to continue to provide enforcement resource, including commercial waste enforcement and taxi licensing enforcement;
- to consider increasing income for the following items:
  - private water supplies;
  - fees and charges in line with corporate inflation levels.

Members then asked a number of questions in relation to taxi enforcement, Clitheroe Market ongoing maintenance, provision of extra dog bins and costings of some of the services provided. The Environmental Health Manager specifically raised the issue of funding for extra dog bins and pointed out that there was no money currently within his budget or allocated for this provision. Committee expressed the wish to see these provided but were aware that there was no funding within current budgets.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the document for implementation in the next financial year within available resources; and
2. instruct the Environmental Health Manager to seek to find resources within the budget under his control to allow the provision of the 20 extra dog bins.

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## DECLARATION OF AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREA

The Environmental Health Manager asked Committee to approve an Air Quality Management Area in respect of Whalley Road, Clitheroe and confirmed related order.

He reminded Members that he had reported on this matter to Committee in May 2009 and detailed monitoring of nitrogen dioxide had been carried out since 2006 by way of NOx diffusion tubes.

The air quality objective at two of the locations had been exceeded slightly throughout this monitoring period. He also reported that since the potential problem had been identified in 2006 there had been ongoing discussions with DEFRA as to the need to justify declaring an Air Quality Management Area. However, two proposals had been implemented by Lancashire County Council with the aim of improving traffic flow through the affected area. Unfortunately, the annual nitrogen dioxide air quality objective had continued to show an exceedance and therefore the Council was now required to declare an air quality management area for a short length of Whalley Road, Clitheroe and surrounding area as detailed on the plan attached to the report.

The Council had a duty under Section 83(i) of the Environment Act 1995 to designate such areas. The declaration of this order will result in the Council having to work with all relevant agencies to prepare an Air Quality Action Plan to consider and implement improvements to address nitrogen dioxide to meet the national air quality objective. In order to meet that objective it may be necessary for some fundamental changes, for example the changing of traffic flow systems and the extension of double yellow lining on the carriageway to improve traffic flow in this area.

Members voiced some concern over the potential causes of this pollution problem and its possible effect on residents and school children in the area.

The Environmental Health Manager reminded Members that the readings showed that this area was only marginally over any stipulated national limits.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the contents of the report; and
2. approve and confirm the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area and associated order in relation to the area identified and outlined for a stretch of Whalley Road, Clitheroe.

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## CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11 AND FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/15

The Financial Services Manager informed Committee of the Capital Programme for this Committee for the forthcoming financial year and to provide details for the full five year capital programme for 2010/15.

He pointed out that there were five schemes that had been approved for this Committee totalling £395,500 which were listed within the report. These schemes formed the first year of the approved five year capital programme.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

897 CHOICE BASED LETTING SCHEME

The Chief Executive gave Committee information from the Department of Communities and Local Government of choice based letting schemes that the Council must adopt before the end of 2010. He commented that discussions had been taking place between the Council, Ribble Valley Homes and the Department of Communities and Local Government regarding plans to introduce such a scheme. Whilst the DCLG favoured a sub regional scheme the Council had made it clear that they felt that this would not be appropriate for a small rural authority. In partnership with Ribble Valley Homes the Council were working to achieve a simple yet fair letting scheme that met the DCLG requirements solely for Ribble Valley.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

898 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

The Chief Executive reported on the development of affordable housing units within the Borough.

The Director of Development Services gave details of negotiations he was involved with in relation to a Section 106 Agreement for the Primrose area.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

899 REPORT FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Hilton gave a verbal update on the Save a Million Years of Life (SMYL) Project and reported on recent ratings which had been achieved for the following categories:

Coronary Vascular Disease – Amber  
Substance Abuse – Green  
Tobacco Control – Amber  
Infant Mortality – Green

She also reported on the recent reconfiguring of NHS East Lancashire in the light of imminent reductions in funding. She echoed earlier concerns about a general lack of consultation by NHS East Lancashire over a number of issues. Finally, she reported on the MALMOT Review on Health and Social Inequality. There was general concern about budget reductions and the knock on effects on health and inequalities.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Hilton be thanked for her report.

900 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the next item of business being exempt information under Paragraph 7 of Category 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

901 GENERAL REPORT – GRANTS

The Chief Executive submitted details of four disabled and three home improvement grants which had been approved.

The meeting closed at 7.39pm.

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

BA/JS  
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