

Minutes of Health & Housing Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 31 May 2012, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor S Hirst (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Brunskill	R Moores
C Conner	E M H Ranson
R Hargreaves	L Rimmer
B Hilton	C Ross
K Hind	N Walsh
J Holgate	

In attendance: Head of Environmental Health Services, Housing Strategy Officer and Head of Regeneration and Housing (7.20pm).

55 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Bibby, R Newmark and M Robinson.

56 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

57 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

58 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

59 PURCHASE AND REPAIR CAPITAL SCHEME REQUEST

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking Committee's approval for a one-off purchase and repair capital scheme. Adactus Housing Association had approached other Councils proposing an affordable housing scheme to deliver three units in Longridge in 2012/13 and three units in Longridge in 2013/14. Currently the grant assistance available for delivery of affordable housing was through the landlord/tenant grant scheme. The assistance available was for renovation only and the scheme does not allow for any grant towards the purchase of affordable properties. The scheme proposal from Adactus was for a grant towards both the purchase and repair. The report highlighted the benefits to the scheme in that the units would be affordable and managed by a Housing Association and would be registered as a Legal Charge to be repaid on sale of the property.

Adactus Housing Association had for many years delivered a purchase and repair scheme across the borough each year providing between 8 and 12 units

that had been purchased and renovated and let as social rented units. With the change to the Home and Communities Agency grant funding process, this scheme was no longer viable and Adactus had therefore approached the Council for support. Adactus had received board approval to go ahead with the purchase of three, two-bed properties in 2013 and 14, however there would be a shortage in funding of £15,000 per unit for which they had approached the Council. The Council would have 100% nomination rights on these units.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the proposed purchase and repair scheme and a request a new capital scheme to enable its delivery from the Policy and Finance Committee.

60 FOOD HYGIENE INTERVENTION PLAN 2012/13

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Committee to consider and approve the Ribble Valley Borough Council's Food Hygiene Intervention Plan for 2012/13. The Head of Environmental Health Services drew particular attention to the contents of Part 7 of the Plan which reviewed the performance of the service against last year's Performance Plan and also set out the proposed areas for improvement for the forthcoming year. He gave an explanation as to the risk categories and how the inspection regime worked. He also informed Committee that a year ago the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme had been successfully introduced within the Borough and that to date 80% of Local Authorities in England Wales and Northern Ireland were now operating this system. He reported that the ratings for the food premises in Ribble Valley had seen ongoing gradual improvement in the past 12 months.

Also as part of the food service quality control as part of a Lancashire Initiative and inter-authority audit had recently been undertaken by food officers from two neighbouring Councils. In addition, the Food Standard Agency had also undertaken an audit of the approved premise systems. Both audits were generally successful and reassuring with only relatively minor issue being identified that had subsequently been addressed.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the Ribble Valley Borough Council Food Hygiene Intervention Plan 2012/13 for implementation in the current financial year;
2. note the satisfactory performance in relation to the identified areas for improvement in the previous year's food safety plan; and
3. reconfirm the continuing priority of food premises inspection for environmental health provision.

61 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2012/13

A report was submitted for Committee's information of the outside bodies that come under the remit of the Health and Housing Committee and their membership.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

62 REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE 2011/12

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information on the service delivery of key local performance indicators within the environmental health service for 2011/12. Members asked several questions with regard to the report and particular reference to recent problems encountered with caravan site licences.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

63 CONFIRMATION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR ASSISTED BURIALS – PUBLIC HEALTH (CONTROL OF DISEASE) ACT 1984 – BURIAL AND CREMATION

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information of the new contract arrangements to deal with public health assisted funerals. The contract had been awarded to William Houghton Funeral Director (Longridge) for the period 2012/2015. The report reminded Committee that it was a duty of the Council to make suitable arrangements for assisted burials and with whom arrangements are in place.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

64 HOUSING FORUM FEEDBACK

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information on feedback received from the Housing Forum which had been held on 16 May 2012 in the Council Chamber.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

65 NOTES ON THE VISIT TO RIBBLE VALLEY HOMES AND HOUSING SITES – 25 APRIL 2012

A note was submitted for Committee's information on the visit made by several of the Members of Health and Housing Committee to Ribble Valley Homes on 25 April 2012.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

66 HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP GROUP

The minutes of the latest Health and Wellbeing Partnership Group held on 25 April 2012 were submitted for Committee's information.

Councillor Hilton also gave a brief update on the position with regard to Clitheroe Community Hospital, her draft response on the East Lancs CCG Strategic Plan and the fact that Ribble Valley Borough Council was a dementia friendly Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

67 GENERAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Committee considered the general report of the Chief Executive which had been submitted to Committee for information, which included the following items:

- Flood Protection Grant Update – Ribchester.
- Clitheroe Market Update.
- Verbal Update on New Initiatives relating to Clitheroe Market.
- Hanson Cement Liaison Meeting Minutes.
- Request for Update on Incidence of Radon.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

68 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, 2, 3 and 6 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

69 GENERAL REPORT – GRANTS

The Chief Executive submitted details of 10 disabled facilities grants, 3 landlord/tenant grants and 1 boiler replacement grant that had been approved.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

70 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted an update on the affordable housing schemes in progress and proposed in the borough. These have been split into 3 applications which have been submitted and were either approved or awaiting determination subject to Section 106 Agreements being completed.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

71 COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER

The Chief Executive submitted a report requesting Committee's support for the proposal to initiate Compulsory Purchase Order proceedings at 2 Barnacre Road, Longridge. The state of the property was detrimental to the area and was having a negative impact on the town because of its prominent location in Longridge. The owners of the property had been contacted as had Lancashire County Council who have a restrictive covenant on this property.

RESOLVED: That Committee support the request to proceed with the Compulsory Purchase Order for the site and submit a request to Policy and Finance Committee for financial support for the scheme.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm.

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