

Minutes of Health & Housing Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 30 May 2013, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor B Hilton (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Bibby	J Holgate
J Hill	L Rimmer
R Hargreaves	M Robinson
S Hore	C Ross

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Environmental Health Services, Head of Cultural and Leisure Services and Housing Strategy Officer.

52 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Brunskill, K Hind, R Moores, R Newmark and M Ranson.

53 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

54 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

55 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

56 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the appointment of the Strategic Housing Working Group – Councillors Hilton, Hind, Ranson and Robinson and the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Group – Councillors Hilton, Hind, Ranson, Elms, Newmark and Robinson.

57 DEVELOPMENT OF A COSY HOME IN RIBBLE VALLEY

The Chief Executive submitted a report requesting Committee to approve a contribution towards the purchase of a cosy home in the Ribble Valley. St Vincent's Housing Association were proposing to purchase a rural hard to treat property in the Ribble Valley and then to retrofit the property with all the latest energy saving technology. Once the property had been fully renovated, it would be used as a cosy home to demonstrate to other householders and any interested in parties the many energy efficient initiatives available and the impact they can make. The property would be open to the general public for tours around the property to encourage the use of energy saving techniques although

there are many examples of cosy homes nationally they are all in urban settings and this would be the first rural hard to treat cosy home.

St Vincent's are looking to purchase a rural property which is off mains gas and at the end of the demonstration period – approximately 12-18 months, the property would be sold. A request had been made for a capital contribution of £15,000 towards the purchase. The investment from the Borough Council that would be registered as a charge and repaid on the sale of the property. This could be funded from the Warm Homes Healthy People funding.

Committee were impressed with this idea and saw it as an opportunity to inform the general public landlords developers and other housing providers to see how new technologies work and how energy savings can be made.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the £15,000 capital loan from the Warm Homes Healthy People Fund for the cosy home purchase and support St Vincent's to deliver the initiative.

58 RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL AND RIBBLE VALLEY HOMES HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY

The Chief Executive submitted a report presenting a revised version of the RVBC and RVH allocations policy. The review of the allocations policy was initiated in response to the allocation provisions contained within the Localism Act 2011 and had been through various stages of revision and consultation since September 2012 culminating in the version now presented to Committee. It had been considered by RVBC officers, all registered providers with stock in the borough, tenants and applicants on the waiting list, the RVH Board and the RV Strategic Housing Working Group. It was proposed that the new allocations policy be adopted from 1 July but before that date, the following work would need to be undertaken by Ribble Valley Homes.

- Amend housing application forms to collect the relevant information
- Make the changes to the IT system to enable points of the allocations to be amended to reflect the changes
- Advise all applicants that their application had been reviewed
- The Council would introduce a bi annual housing waiting list report, the first being in August 2013.

The Committee felt that overall, the allocations policy was an improvement on the previous one and asked various questions about the housing waiting list and specific points in the policy.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree the new Ribble Valley Borough Council and Ribble Valley Homes Housing Allocations Policy to be operational from July 2013.

59 RIBBLE VALLEY YEAR OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING 2013-2014

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Committee to consider the progress being made on the new countywide public health structures; proposals for the Ribble Valley Year of Health and Wellbeing; and developing local

partnership arrangements for health and wellbeing. Committee were reminded about the public health reforms and the fact that public health was now the responsibility of the County Council with the addition of clinical commissioning groups. A Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board had also been established along with district based health and wellbeing partnerships. It was acknowledged that Public Health Lancashire would have to work closely with district partners in jointly planning future services. The RVBC Health Sub-Group felt that it was important to maintain some momentum to ensure a continuation of local partnership working until the new formal arrangements are established and as such, proposed a year of health and wellbeing promoted by the Ribble Valley Borough Council with the theme 'Working together towards a healthier Ribble Valley'. This would reflect the work done by partner agencies and community groups within the borough in trying to redress the imbalance of resources available to the predominantly rural Ribble Valley and the resultant health inequalities experienced by its residents. It would also identify the health and wellbeing priorities for Ribble Valley residents and showcase and celebrate the exemplary work of partners in Ribble Valley and the leadership of the Borough Council.

Specific outcomes from the year would be:

- celebrate the partnership's contribution to Ribble Valley health and wellbeing in 2013/2014;
- work towards a dementia friendly Council and encourage other Ribble Valley organisations to join the project;
- promote healthier individual lifestyles;
- demonstrably reduce the cost of providing health care to Ribble Valley residents; and
- reduce the level of fuel poverty in Ribble Valley.

These outcomes had been selected as they could demonstrate the Council's commitment to the year of health and wellbeing by building on existing projects/work programmes. There would be a formal launch of this once the individual work programmes had been established.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. note the contents of the report and support the proposal to establish 2013/2014 as Ribble Valley's year of health and wellbeing;
2. agree the specific outcomes as identified; and
3. extend the remit and membership of the current Health Sub-Group to oversee the year of health and wellbeing and to work with Public Health Lancashire towards the establishment of a Ribble Valley Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

60

FOOD HYGIENE INTERVENTION PLAN 2013/2014

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Committee to consider and approve the Ribble Valley Borough Council's Food Hygiene Intervention Plan

2013/2014. Guidance issued by the Food Standards Agency continues to require local authorities to produce a food hygiene intervention programme relating to food law enforcement and to set out how they would meet their statutory obligations. Particular attention was drawn to the contents of part 7 of the programme, which reviewed the performance of the service against last year's performance plan and also set out proposed areas for improvement for the forthcoming year. No complaints had been received against the delivery of the service during this year. The Chief Executive highlighted several areas within the programme with particular reference to the borough's food premises with the effort and resource continuing to be focused on the lowest three categories (0, 1 and 2) in the national food hygiene rating scheme with the purpose of raising these premises to achieve at least category 3 'general compliance'.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the Ribble Valley Borough Council Food Hygiene Intervention Plan 2013/2014 for implementation in the current 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 service provision.

61 CAPITAL OUTTURN 2012/2013

The Director of Resources submitted a report seeking Member approval for the slippage of capital schemes from the 2012/2013 financial year to the 2013/2014 financial year and to review the final outturn of the capital programme for 2012/2013 for this Committee. The past capital programme for the Health and Housing Committee consisted of seven schemes which totalled £477,200. Actual expenditure to date was £424,319 which equated to 89% of the overall revised estimate. For this Committee there were four schemes with identified slippage into 2013/2014 which totalled £38,630. These were schemes relating to cemetery extension, disabled facilities grants, landlord/tenant grants and repossession prevent fund.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree the request for slippage as outlined in the report and approve the slippage of £38,630 into the 2013/2014 financial year.

62 DEFINING FUTURE DOG FOULING STRATEGY BASED ON BEST PRACTICE

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information of the current best practice in relation to dog fouling. It was a very detailed report which outlined the background and current situation along with the many issues surrounding the complexities of dog fouling. The report highlighted the fact that the Borough Council would continue to keep this issue in high profile in order to make a difference in the Ribble Valley.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

63 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2013/2014

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Members of the outside bodies that come under the remit of the Health and Housing Committee and their membership. Representatives were encouraged to provide reports back giving Committee an update on the work of the body and drawing attention to any current issues.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

64 EDISFORD BRIDGE FARM CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITE, CLITHEROE

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of an application to revise an existing site licence at Edisford Bridge Farm Caravan and Camping Site. The licence would be amended to reflect the current planning consent which increases the number of touring pitches to 30 and stipulates that the site must only be used for touring caravans and tents between 7 March and the following 6 January.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

65 TWYN GHYLL CARAVAN PARK, PAYTHORNE

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of an application to revise an existing site licence at Twyn Ghyll Caravan Park, Paythorne. The licence would be amended to Park Leisure 2000 Ltd and would extend the site to incorporate an additional 75 vans, allow the entire caravan park to be used for 12 months holiday use and would include a condition which stipulated that the caravans should only be used for the purpose of holiday accommodation and not as a permanent residence and would require the site owner to maintain and make available for inspection a suitable register with supporting evidence showing the details of the primary residence of the owner and/or occupier of the caravan.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

66 CLITHEROE FOOD BANK

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee that a food bank would be operating in Clitheroe from July 2013. Evidence showed that there was a considerable increase in demand for emergency food supplies which would only be provided following a referral from an appropriate agency.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

67 GENERAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Committee considered the general report of the Chief Executive which had been submitted to Committee for information and included minutes of a recent Hanson

Cement Liaison meeting and information on the annual assessment report for air quality and an update on the Clitheroe Cemetery extension.

68 MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP GROUP

The minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Group meetings held on 13 March 2013 and 8 May 2013 were submitted for Committee's information.

69 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the fact that the following items of business be Exempt Information under Categories 1 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

70 GENERAL REPORT - GRANTS

The Chief Executive submitted details of five disabled facilities grants, three landlord tenant grants and 16 boiler replacement grants that had been approved.

71 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

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

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

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