

Minutes of Health & Housing Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 23 October 2014 starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor B Hilton (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Bibby	L Rimmer
S Brunskill	M Robinson
K Hind	C Ross
S Hore	I Sayers
R Newmark	R Sherras

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

360 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Hargreaves, J Hill, J Holgate and J Shervey.

361 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

362 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

363 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

364 PRESENTATION ON THE PROCESS OF FOOD SAMPLING

At the request of Members at the previous Committee, the Head of Environmental Health Services gave a brief presentation on the process of food sampling. This included some history, food safety legislation, the sampling process, recent incidents and the future. The Chairman thanked the Head of Environmental Health Services for a very informative presentation.

He also gave a brief presentation on Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and put into context the recent inclusion of Ribble Valley as one of the areas with the highest ratios per capita included in a recent Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) report. He advised Members that CO₂ was not considered an air pollutant per se but a trace gas that was naturally occurring widely used and not considered a health risk. The Chairman again thanked the Head of Environmental Health Services for this informative presentation.

365

REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES

The Director of Resources submitted a report seeking Member approval on the proposals to increase the Committee's fees and charges with effect from 1 April 2015. These proposals were the first stage in the review of this Committee's budget for the forthcoming 2015/2016 financial year. The review takes place on an annual basis as part of the budget setting process. The Council's latest budget forecast allows for a 2% increase in the level of income raised from fees and charges. The forecast currently shows a potential budget deficit for 2015/2016 of £513,000 after taking £220,000 from general fund balances. This forecast has already factored in an overall increase in income from fees and charges of 2%.

Specific reference was made to two sets of fees and charges that were set on a different basis.

- Five water sample analysis charges have been reset to take into account amended lab test parameters on each type of test and this alters the cost associated with each test. The proposed fees for these sample tests have been set to cover the direct lab fees and employee costs associated with these checks.
- Two new zoo licence checks replace the previous single zoo licence check, an annual zoo compliance audit and a four year renewal licence check. The proposed fees for these new checks are based on recovering the direct employee costs associated with these checks.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the charges as set out in Annex 1 to the report for implementation with effect from 1 April 2015.

366

SMOKING AND TOBACCO ALLIANCE

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Members to consider a request from Public Health at Lancashire County Council to support the Local Government Declaration on tobacco control. The Declaration is supported by a wide range of bodies involved in public health and the Council already undertake activities which would meet the objectives of the Declaration. These activities related to smoking on public premises, support for staff wishing to stop smoking and activities through the healthy lifestyles team that support the wider community improving their health. This Council had also shown leadership around the potential harm of tobacco smoking to children and young people and had taken on a recent initiative to encourage people not to smoke in playgrounds through the smoke free play area scheme.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. support the initiative and agree to become a signee to the Local Government Declaration; and
2. ask the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Group to look at the use of e-cigarettes in public houses/places.

367 CAPITAL MONITORING 2014/2015

The Director of Resources submitted a report for Committee's information relating to the progress of the approved capital programme for the period April to September 2014 with regard to schemes which fall under the responsibility of this Committee. There was a total of five capital programme schemes for this Committee, with total planned capital spend for the current year of £297,240. To date just over 87% of the annual capital programme for this Committee had been spent or committed. Main variations referred to were disabled facilities grants, landlord tenant grants and repossession prevention fund. A separate report was included on the agenda regarding the disabled facilities grants.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

368 REVENUE MONITORING 2014/2015

The Director of Resources submitted a report informing Committee of the current position for the period April to end of September 2014 for the revenue budget as far as this Committee was concerned. There was an overall net underspend of £84,925 on the net cost of services. The main areas of variation were summarised for Committee's information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

369 RE-COMMISSIONING OF HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY SERVICES

The Chief Executive gave a verbal update on the re-commissioning of home improvement agency services, which included the services of a handy person and minor adaptations eg grab rails, which cost less than £500. This funding was being moved to Public Health and would come through the better care fund in future. There was to be an introduction of an index multiple deprivation which would result in Ribble Valley's allocation being reduced from £55,000 to £44,000.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

370 EXTRA CARE PROVISION IN RIBBLE VALLEY

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Members of the changes to the extra care housing schemes at St Anne's Court, Clitheroe and Pleasington Court, Longridge. A letter from Lancashire County Council informed the providers of domiciliary and support services that the contract would not be renewed from January 2015. This decision had been made after consultation with both landlords at St Anne's Court and Pleasington Court which is St Vincent's Housing Association and Ribble Valley Homes. The decision not to renew the contract is in response to Lancashire County Council undertaking a remodelling of all extra care schemes across the county. For the residents in the scheme, this would mean they would have to purchase their care from the standard care providers that operate within the locality. Discussions have taken place with both St Vincent's Housing Association and Ribble Valley Homes managers and agreement had been made to work together to look at the care providers locally to be able to advise them of the care options available. The ideal outcome would

be that one care provider could be commissioned to enable the residents to get the best value for money from their personalised care budgets.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

371 HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP GROUP

The notes of the meetings held on 21 July 2014 and 29 September 2014 were included for Members' information.

Reference was made to the shaping of how the future of public health was moving. The Head of Regeneration and Housing would give a presentation to Health and Housing Committee at a future meeting.

372 GENERAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

Committee considered the general report of the Chief Executive which had been submitted to Committee for information and included a progress report on private water supplies risk assessment indicating a revised completion date of July 2015, which had been modified to the Drinking Water Inspectorate and the notes of the Hanson Cement Liaison meeting held on 25 September 2014.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

373 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Brunskill submitted a report for Committee's information on the Ribble Valley Children's Services 2014. The report informed Committee that the Ribble Valley Children's Trust had now been devolved to form a new partnership with Hyndburn and Rossendale. She felt that the partnership with the inclusion of schools, voluntary organisations that celebrate young people's achievements with understanding of difficult issues and interventions with families in need, was a service that needed to be continued.

The Chairman suggested that this issue could be included as part of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership remit.

374 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 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

375 `TRANSFER OF FUNDING TO DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT BUDGET

The Chief Executive submitted a report requesting Committee's permission to transfer funds from the landlord tenant budget to the disabled facilities grant budget. In the past 12 months there had been an increase in the number of recommendations due to increased referrals and the number of grants that had exceeded £12,000. This meant that the original budget was not sufficient to fund the cost of the grants already approved and it was felt pertinent that a transfer of

£63,270 from the landlord tenant budget into the disabled facilities grants budget was necessary. The transfer did however mean that there would be no further budget left in 2014/2015 to provide further landlord tenant grants and the Council would need to operate a waiting list for any further Disabled Facility Grant or Landlord Tenant Grant requests received.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the transfer of £63,270 from the landlord tenant grants 2014/2015 budget to the disabled facilities grants 2014/2015 budget; and
2. submit the request to vire the budgets to Policy and Finance Committee for approval.

376 GENERAL REPORT – GRANTS

The Chief Executive submitted details of six disabled facilities grants, two landlord tenant grants and two boiler replacement grants.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

377 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.

There was some concern from Members that with regards to the pre-application schemes, they were not aware of the details until these became live applications.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.57pm.

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