

## Minutes of Health & Housing Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 19 January 2017, starting at 6.30pm  
Present: Councillor S Hore (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Brunskill	B Hilton
P Dobson	K Hind
P Elms	R Newmark
R Elms	M Robinson
M Fenton	R Sherras
R Hargreaves	J White

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

### 477 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Bibby and L Graves.

### 478 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

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

### 480 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

### 481 ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING ENFORCEMENT POLICY

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the requirement for potentially polluting industrial activities to operate under the conditions of a permit. This had been introduced by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010 (as amended). Operators of prescribed activities were required to apply to Ribble Valley Borough Council as regulatory authority for the issue of a permit, and thereafter to comply with the conditions of that permit. Operation without a permit or in breach of the conditions of a permit enabled the Council to take steps by way of enforcement, up to and including prosecution.

A Policy had been prepared to provide for consistency and transparency in enforcement.

Members were advised that details of the industries and processes involved could be obtained from the Council's website, and that approximately 25 permits have been issued in the last year.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the Environmental Permitting Enforcement Policy.

482 DOG WARDEN ENFORCEMENT SERVICE

The Chief Executive submitted a report on proposed changes to the Dog Warden Service, and to introduce a Dog Warden Policy to ensure a consistent and clear Policy for education of dog owners and enforcement of the relevant legislation across the borough. The Policy provided for education of groups (including schools) and individuals, procedures for stray dogs, dog fouling (including the introduction of 10 Dog Watch areas), collections from dog waste bins and dog welfare licensing.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve Ribble Valley Borough Council's Dog Warden Policy for implementation with immediate effect; and
2. reconfirm the continuing priority of the Dog Warden Service for the Environmental Health Service provision.

483 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016-2017

The Director of Resources submitted a report seeking Committee's approval of the Revised Capital Programme for the current financial year for this Committee. The Original Capital Programme for 2016/17 had been approved by Policy and Finance Committee in February 2016 and since then regular reports have been presented to this Committee on progress with the Capital Programme.

The Capital Programme originally comprised three schemes with a total estimated cost of £545,640, after incorporation of increased disabled facility grant funding for 2016/17. The schemes had provided for disabled facilities grants, landlord/tenant grants and Clitheroe Market improvements.

The Capital Programme had been reviewed and revised. This had incorporated moving the Clitheroe Market Improvement Scheme budget of £175,000 to 2017/18 and introducing a new scheme, Affordable Warmth – Capital, with a budget of £15,320. These revisions resulted in a revised estimate of £386,020 for 2016/2017.

Expenditure on the schemes (including commitments) to the end of December 2016 was £192,428. The current underspend of £193,592 against the full year revised estimate was due to lower levels of grant applications received to date when compared to the levels of funding in place for disabled facilities grants, landlord/tenant grants and Affordable Warmth – Capital Schemes.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the revised capital programme for 2016-2017 as set out in the report.

484 CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW AND NEW BIDS

The Director of Resources submitted a report recommending the proposed future five year Capital Programme for 2017/18 to 2021/2022 for this Committee. The report reviewed the schemes that were approved in the Capital Programme in 2016 for the financial years 2017/18 and 2018/2019, and also any new bids received from Heads of Service for the period 2019/2020 to 2021/2022.

With regard to the Capital Programme for 2017/2018 to 2018/2019, there had been two schemes approved in the Capital Programme for this timeframe totalling £422,000, of which £322,000 was likely to be funded by the Government under the disabled facilities grants scheme (over the 2 years).

With regard to new capital bids for the period 2019/2020 to 2021/2022, the Heads of Service had been asked to put forward new bids. Four bids had been submitted totalling £690,000, of which £483,000 was likely to be funded by the Government for disabled facilities grants (over the 3 years).

Committee were asked to consider the new scheme bids and also to put forward any amendments to the bids that they may wish to make at this stage. The Director of Resources reminded Members that other Committees would also be receiving similar reports for the new scheme bids and that all the bids from the Committee would be finally considered alongside each other by the Budget Working Group and Policy and Finance Committee.

Committee were also reminded that the disabled facilities grants scheme had been included in the proposed capital programme at an indicative value of £161,000 per annum. In practice, the final scheme value each year would be set to match the actual government grant funding received in year.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the future five year programme for 2017-2018 to 2021-2022 as outlined in the report; and
2. recommend to Policy and Finance Committee the future five year capital programme for this Committee's services as outlined in the report.

485 REVISED REVENUE BUDGET 2016-2017

The Director of Resources submitted a report outlining a Revised Revenue Budget for 2016/2017 for this Committee. She reminded Members that at this time of year, the estimates are revised for the current financial year in order to predict the likely outturn. This also assists in preparing the original estimates for the forthcoming financial year.

The 2016/2017 budget had included provision for pay and increases of 1.5%, which had then been settled at 1%. As well as using data on actual financial

performance to date there had been detailed discussions with budget holders and Heads of Service on past service provision and future plans, which played an integral part in the budget setting process.

She informed Committee that the revised budget net expenditure for 2016/2017 was £830,830 after allowing for movements on earmarked reserves. This was £89,600 lower than the original estimate after allowing for movements on earmarked reserves. This equated to 1.1% of this Committee's gross expenditure budget. A comparison between the original and revised budgets for each cost centre was included for Committee's information and significant changes were highlighted.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree the revised revenue estimate for 2016-2017.

#### 486 ORIGINAL REVENUE BUDGET 2017-2018

The Director of Resources submitted a report asking Committee to agree to the draft Original Revenue Budget for 2017/2018 for this Committee for consideration at Special Policy and Finance Committee.

With regard to the Council's overall financial position, she reminded Members that in September 2016, the updated Council's four year budget forecast had predicted budget gaps of £265,000 in 2017/2018, £719,000 in 2018/2019, and £921,000 in 2019/2020. She also informed Members that in October the Council submitted an efficiency plan to the Government in order to secure a multi-finance settlement and this had been successful.

The Government had also announced that there would be significant changes to the new homes bonus scheme which would impact on our allocation. In 2017/2018 allocations paid will reduce from 6 years to 5 years, the impact of which would reduce our allocation from £510,000 to £384,000 as a result of the new 0.4% growth baseline. The total allocation for next year would now be £1,570,000 instead of £1,815,000, and further reductions would be phased in future years. The Government had also set out the Referendum criteria for 2017/2018 which allowed a maximum increase in Band D Council Tax for Ribble Valley of £5.

From April 2016 we have been a member of the Lancashire Business Rate Pool, which means that we will benefit from not having to pay a 50% levy on growth above our business rate baseline. The current estimate of our retained levy would be around £400,000.

The Budget Working Group would continue to meet over the next weeks and would ultimately make recommendations to Special Policy and Finance Committee on 7 February 2017 in order to achieve a balanced budget.

The proposed fees and charges for 2017/2018 that had been considered by Committee in October had been incorporated in the service budgets and following a great deal of in-depth service analysis and meetings by the Council's accountants, budget holders, Head of Service and Management Team, the

proposed draft budget was now presented to Members. Estimates had been prepared on current levels of service allowing for pay increases at 1.1% and inflation of 1.5% for all other items. The budget for each of the Committee's cost centres was presented individually, showing the original estimate 2016/2017 starting point, savings, inflation, variation to standard budgeted inflation, unavoidable changes to service costs, support services changes and capital changes, changes which then culminated in the draft original estimate for 2017/2018.

The proposed 2017/2018 original estimate was net expenditure of £926,190 after allowing for movements on earmarked reserves. The net expenditure for this Committee had increased by £5,760 from the 2016/2017 original estimate, after allowing for movements on earmarked reserves. This equated to 0.07% of this Committee's gross expenditure budget.

Committee were informed that there are several risks and uncertainties on the original estimate set for the Joiners Arms temporary accommodation unit, because the detailed plans for the Council taking over the running of the unit from 1 April 2017 are still to be finalised.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree the original revenue estimate for 2017-2018 and submit this to the Special Policy and Finance Committee, subject to any further considerations made by the Budget Working Group.

#### 487 CONSULTATION ON THE CLOSURE OF CALDERSTONES HOSPITAL

The Chief Executive submitted a report, seeking agreement on the approach to be adopted in submission of a response to the NHS consultation on the closure of Calderstones Hospital. A large element of the former hospital had already been closed, with services being provided in the community or closer to the base of Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

The consultation sought views on how low and medium secure services for people with a learning disability and/or autistic spectrum disorders should be provided across the North West. The option preferred by the NHS for Calderstones was closure of the Whalley site, with provision of low secure beds across the North West, and care for individuals receiving medium secure care to be provided to a site being developed at Maghull (Merseyside). The other option subject to consultation proposed retention of elements of the Whalley site for provision of low security services with a smaller bed base. The wider issues of future use of the site was not a consideration in the consultation.

RESOLVED: That Committee note the consultation and endorse its consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Partnership and ask the Partnership to formulate a response on behalf of the Council to be submitted by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of this Committee.

488 RIBBLESDALE LOCALITY PARTNERSHIP

The Chief Executive submitted a report following receipt of an invitation for the Council to participate in a pilot project across East Lancashire in three CCG areas to explore a model for provision of a Multi-speciality Community Provider (MCP). The aim of the MCP would be to join up health and care services to provide high quality, efficient and effective care for patients within the boundary of the MCP area. In this case, the MCP would provide for the Ribblesdale area, which comprises the Clitheroe, Sabden, Slaidburn and Whalley GP practices. The various providers of health, care and wellbeing services would be brought together in an accountable body in order to care for patients closer to home.

RESOLVED: That Committee note the proposal to create a Multi-speciality Community Provider partnership and endorse the continued attendance of the steering group by the Chair of the Ribble Valley Health and Wellbeing Partnership and that a progress report is brought back to this Committee as the pilot moves forward.

489 FARMERS' MARKETS

The Chief Executive submitted a report, seeking approval of Committee for the establishment of a monthly Farmers' Market at Clitheroe Market. This followed the successful operation of the Christmas Market in December 2016. The event could be held on a Thursday or a Saturday, when there were few if any bookings of pitches in the bullring section.

Committee discussed the proposal, identifying the benefits of increased and improved use of the facility and creation of an increased attraction for people to visit Clitheroe.

RESOLVED: That Committee approve the provision of a Farmers' Market be pursued in Clitheroe.

490 INCREASE OF BED BUGS

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information on the apparent national increase in infestations of bed bugs. This had arisen as a result of increased travelling by the population, with bed bugs often being transported in luggage.

In the past 10 years, Ribble Valley Borough Council had experienced a fluctuating demand for services regarding complaints of bed bugs. In the current year, there had been 4 cases, although the previous year had been a historic high of 6 cases. This did not take into account cases treated by private contractors.

Members were advised on how to avoid infestation, and how to respond in the event of infestation.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

491 CAMPAIGN – TATTOOING, ELECTROLYSIS, ACUPUNCTURE AND EAR PIERCING

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information on the need for businesses offering skin piercing services, involving acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis to be registered. He reported that the Council would be conducting a campaign over the next 12 months to ensure that all relevant businesses were registered and appropriately licensed.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

492 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, and included private water supplies risk assessment progress, food safety and health and safety, environmental permits, mid-year report on the Christmas Market, and reports on the liaison meetings with Tarmac and Hanson Cement.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

493 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports on Representatives on Outside Bodies.

494 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.

495 REVIEW OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION PROVISION

The Chief Executive submitted a report on the current need to review temporary accommodation provision in the borough for homeless people. 'This arose due to the notice from Ribble Valley Homes of their intention to cease management of 90 Whalley Road, Clitheroe, as at 31 March 2017, and the potential cessation on the same date of funded support by LCC Supporting People.

Members were advised of the financial implications for the Council, with total projected net expenditure for the Council of £15,710 in 2017/18.

RESOLVED: That

1. Committee agree that the role of maintaining sufficient temporary accommodation is essential and that the current provision at 90 Whalley Road is maintained;

- 2 in 12 months the Chief Executive will report on the implications of the changed management arrangements over the 12 month period from 1 April 2017 to 1 April 2018 to this Committee with a detailed review.

496 GENERAL REPORT – GRANTS

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information of approval of 7 disabled facilities grants and 2 landlord/tenant grants. No new boiler replacement grants have been approved since the last report to Committee.

179 applications had been made for household property flood resilience grants of which 168 have been approved, 73 completed and 93 partially completed with interim payments made. Officers had been working with applicants to facilitate grant application and approval where possible in relation to listed buildings.

33 business applications had been received of which 23 had been approved, 11 completed and paid and 2 of which were awaiting listed building consent.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

497 AFFORDABLE HOUSING UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information with the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Housing Working Group held on 10 October 2016 and 23 November 2016. He also reported on the receipt of notification from DCLG of a Community Housing Fund award. Ribble Valley was one of only 3 local authorities in Lancashire and 7 in the North West to receive any grant under this scheme.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.52pm.

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