

Minutes of Health & Housing Committee

Meeting Date: Thursday, 15 March 2018, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor B Hilton (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Brunskill	K Hind
P Dobson (left at 7.35pm)	R Newmark
R Elms	R Sherras
M Fenton	R Thompson
L Graves	J White
R Hargreaves	

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Regeneration and Housing, Strategic Housing Officer, Senior Accountant.

Also in attendance: Councillor S Hind (arrived 6.48pm).

670 APOLOGIES

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

671 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Fenton requested an update on Minute 502 with regard to dog fouling issues. The Chief Executive reported that Community Services Committee had recently approved to extend the use of ordinary litter bins for dog mess throughout the Ribble Valley.

672 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

673 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

674 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES 2018/2019

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking Committee's approval to amend three proposed 2018/2019 fees and charges which had previously been approved by this Committee in October 2017 and agree to a new 2018/2019 fee.

Since approval of the fees and charges Environmental Health and Finance Officers had considered other factors and become aware of further information

which had led to different fee levels now being proposed for 3 fees. In addition one new fee area had been identified for inclusion in the 2018/2019 fees and charging list.

In 2018/2019 fees for both memorial bench and commemorative trees approved on 19 October 2017 were “at cost – materials plus officer time input”. Since the fees were set on that basis and following further consideration, officers now proposed to set fixed level fees for both memorial bench and commemorative trees. The fixed fee levels proposed should ensure the Council still covers the cost of providing memorial benches and commemorative trees. This would allow the Council to specify the bench and tree types to be sited in the cemetery and relatives and friends of the deceased would have a straight forward fee structure to select from. Also, other Lancashire cemeteries have fixed fee levels.

The proposed 2018/2019 fee for a memorial bench (inclusive of plaque) was £750.00. The proposed 2018/2019 fee for commemorative trees was £170.00.

Under the guidance for setting private water sample fees the Council is advised to set fees to only cover the estimated cost it incurs. The 2018/2019 fee for Large Water Supply – Audit and Check Monitoring approved on 19 October 2017 was set at £103.00. However, since that time we have been informed of a reduction in lab test fees and in order to reflect this reduction it was now proposed that this fee be set at £100.00.

In recent months the Environmental Health team had commenced the latest round of private water supply risk assessments and sample testing. Several results had prompted retesting and parameters set for each retest are specific to that test and thus the lab test fees vary for each retest. Given that it was proposed to introduce a fee for private water sample retest of “cost of lab test fees plus officer time”.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the following proposed fees and charges for implementation from 1 April 2018, to replace the fees previously approved on 19 October 2017:
 - Memorial Bench – £750.00
 - Commemorative Trees – £170.00
 - Large Water Supply – Audit and Check Monitoring – £100.00; and
2. approve the proposed new fee for private water sample retest of “cost of lab test fees plus officer time” for implementation from 1 April 2018.

675

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

The Chief Executive submitted a report providing an overview on the Christmas Market activities proposed at Clitheroe Market for 2018. The Council had now delivered Christmas Markets for the previous 2 years and were clearly perceived by visitors as bringing something different to a typical market shopping trip.

It is believed that the Christmas Market had a positive impact on the local economy and was seen as an opportunity for Clitheroe to attract new tourism and visitors, high spend shoppers and increased visits during the crucial trading periods.

It was proposed to run 4 Christmas Markets on shopping dates during December 2018 with the proposed charge of £15.00 per stall or pitch. They would also hopefully coincide with the Santa Dash which is hosted by the Chamber of Trade and also the Town Council event, as well as the Christmas lights switch on which would occur at 3pm on the first day of trading.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the recommendation of a non-refundable fee of £15.00 including VAT for a pitch or stall during the festive period upon the market; and
2. approve the dates of 1, 8, 15, 22 December 2018 running from 9am to 4pm.

676 REVENUE MONITORING 2017/2018

The Director of Resources submitted a report providing this Committee with information relating to the progress of the 2017/18 Revenue Budget as at the end of January 2018. There is an overall underspend of £41,967 on the net cost of services as at the end of January after allowing for transfers to and from earmarked reserves. The main reasons for this underspend were highlighted for Committee's information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

677 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/2019

The Director of Resources submitted a report informing Members of the schemes which have been approved for inclusion in this Committee's 2018/2019 Capital Programme. There are 3 approved schemes totalling £522,000.

It was pointed out that the Disabled Facilities Grants scheme budget was currently an indicative amount as the actual scheme budget would not be confirmed until the final 2018/2019 grant allocation was notified to the Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

678 MARKET EVENTS 2018

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Members of the proposed market events for 2018. Speciality markets were a further dimension of the existing market adding extra economic, social regeneration and health and environmental gains.

The specialist markets being undertaken during 2018 are:

- Easter Market – 24 March;
- Beery and Sausage Market – 21 April;
- Cheese Market – 19 May;
- Vintage and Craft Market – 16 June;
- Pampered Pet Market – 14 July;
- Christmas Markets – 1, 8, 15, 22 December.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

679 SUPPORTED HOUSING FUNDED MODEL POLICY STATEMENT AND CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of a consultation response submitted in response to a supported housing funding model proposal. The Government released a Funding Supported Housing Policy Statement for consultation in October 2017 with a closing date of 23 January 2018.

The proposed three-pronged approach to the funding included a sheltered rent for those in sheltered and extra care housing; local grant funding for short term and transitional supported housing; and a welfare system for long term supported housing.

The consultation response was included in the report for Members' information.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the consultation feedback submitted and acknowledge the implications for supported housing delivery; and
2. request a further report on the operation and future of the Joiners Homeless Accommodation in Clitheroe.

680 HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY – HOMEWISE MONITORING INFORMATION

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of the service delivery provided by the Home Improvement Agency for the past 6 months.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

681 NOTES OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

The Notes of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership meetings held on 10 January 2018 and 19 February 2018 were circulated for Committee's information.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

682 REPORTS ON REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

There were no reports from representatives on outside bodies.

683 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.

684 EMPTY DWELLING MANAGEMENT ORDER FOR 18 SIDDOWS AVENUE, CLITHEROE

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Members of an empty property, 18 Siddows Avenue, Clitheroe, asking them to consider the enforcement options available to the Council to bring the property back into use.

The property has been empty for over 2 years and prior to that time had been used as a shared house where there were numerous antisocial behaviour issues.

The report outlined the procedure for making an Empty Dwelling Management Order which would allow the Local Authority to take control of the property, to manage the property and to ensure that the property is occupied. To be able to make that first step, access would be required to the property and it was therefore recommended that the owner be approached for access to the dwelling to enable an inspection of the property and ultimately a specification of works to be compiled in order to establish the total cost of bringing the property back into occupation. This process would also ensure that the owner of the property was aware of the Council's determination to ensure that the property is occupied and brought back into use.

Councillor S Hind was given permission to speak on this item and outlined the issues surrounding the property and the problems this gave to the neighbours.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. delegate authority to the Chief Executive to negotiate with the owner the option to acquire the property on behalf of the Council; and
2. agree that the option of an Empty Dwelling Management Order be considered and that the initial steps to calculate the cost of the option are undertaken and a report be brought back to this Committee should the option to purchase the property not be successful.

685 APPLICATION TO THE COMMUNITY HOUSING FUND

The Chief Executive submitted a report informing Committee of an application to the Community Housing Fund from Chipping, Leagram and Thornley Community Land Trust.

In January 2017 the Council was awarded a Community Housing Fund of £157,531 that must be spent on the delivery of community-led housing schemes.

An application had been received from Chipping, Leagram and Thornley Community Land Trust to utilise the grant monies to enable them to secure and manage 3 rental units on a development site in Chipping.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. support the application if the scheme meets the requirements of the Community Housing Fund Award; and
2. agree to offer a 50% contribution towards delivery of the scheme, therefore dependent on the negotiations and the values paid; this will be an offer of approximately £115,000, the grant will therefore be match funding towards delivery of the community-led scheme.

686 GENERAL REPORT – GRANTS

The Chief Executive submitted a report for Committee's information on approval of 10 Disabled Facilities Grants and 1 Affordable Warmth Grant.

182 applications had been made for Household Flood Resilience Grants for which 180 had been approved. In the case of the remaining 2 applications the owners had decided not to proceed.

175 applications have been fully completed and payments made. 5 are still to complete.

32 business applications approved for grant had now been fully completed and payments had been made.

Officers are increasing efforts to follow up any outstanding works to ensure timely completion of each scheme before the closure of the Government programme.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

687 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 27 February 2018.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The meeting closed at 7.55pm.

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