



COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

21 SEPTEMBER 2010

PRESENT:-

Councillors P.M. Posnett (Chairman)
P.M. Chandler, S. Dungworth, M.C.R. Graham MBE
M.R. Sheldon, D.R. Wright, J. Wyatt, A. Freer

As Observer

Councillors Cumbers, Moore and Moncrieff

Corporate Director (KA)
Head of Social and Economic Development
Chief Accountant, Democracy Officer (DM)

The Committee commenced at 6.50 p.m.

C24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dean and Holt.

C25. MINUTES

- (a) The minutes of the special meeting held on the 9 June 2010 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman.
- (b) The minutes of the meeting held on the 23 June 2010 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman.
- (c) The minutes of the special meeting held on the 29 June 2010 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

C26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C27. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other committees.

C28. A QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE HOUSING NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF OLDER PEOPLE IN LEICESTERSHIRE

The Head of Social and Economic Development submitted a report on behalf of the Assistant Chief Executive (CW) (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which presented to Members the 2010 Qualitative Assessment of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Older People in Leicestershire commissioned by the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area Partnership (HMA) comprising of the following local authorities: Blaby District, Charnwood Borough, Harborough and Bosworth Borough, Hinckley and Bosworth Borough, Leicester city, Leicester County, Melton Borough, North West Leicestershire District and Oadby and Wigston Borough.

The following issue was raised and noted by Councillors :-

- That care within the community needed be of an adequate standard to enable people to live independently.

RESOLVED that Members noted the recommendations of the 2010 Qualitative Assessment of the Housing Needs and Aspirations of Older People in Leicestershire.

(Councillor Cumbers here left the Meeting.)

C29. IMPROVING HOUSING SERVICES – ANNUAL REPORT AND HOUSING TASK GROUP

The Head of Social and Economic Development submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which sought Members' comments and approval on the Annual Report to tenants to meet the Tenant Services Authority requirements and approve the terms of reference of the Housing Landlord Services Task Group, both designed to improve housing services provided by Melton Borough Council.

It was noted that in the current economic climate and the uncertainty of future funding, there would be a requirement to keep the Annual Report a working document.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Annual Report to tenants be approved;
- (2) the terms of reference for the Housing Landlord Task Group be approved.

C30. REPORT OF TELEPHONY TASK GROUP

The Corporate Director (KA) submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which:-

- (a) informed Members that all of the original terms of reference for the Telephony Task Group had been completed;
- (b) considered the future role of the Task Group.

It was noted that Councillor's Moore and Chandler had confirmed that they would like to sit on the new Task Group. The Committee unanimously agreed the Membership of the new Task Group to be Councillors :-

- Chandler
- Dungworth
- Moore
- Wright

The Head of Social and Economic Development suggested naming the Task Group 'Access to Services Task Group' to allow more scope for self-serve. The Corporate Director (KA) stated that they would settle on the title of the Task Group at a later stage.

RESOLVED that

- (1) progress against the original terms of reference be noted and the existing Telephony Task Group be decommissioned;
- (2) a new Task Group reporting to this Committee be established to deal with a broader remit around Customer Services with terms of reference. Members of the Task Group are Councillors Wright, Moore, Chandler and Dungworth;
- (3) the Chair presents this report to the Efficiency Task Group in relation to the future work that may need to be addressed within the work programme for securing efficiencies.

C31. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING TO 31 JULY 2010

The Chief Accountant submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Financial Services (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which updated the Committee on the progress of schemes within the Capital Programme to 31 July 2010.

It was noted that the Auditors had recommended charging the Fairmead Regeneration project to the revenue budget.

RESOLVED that the progress made on each capital scheme be noted.

C32. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – BUDGET MONITORING 1 APRIL 2010 – 30 JUNE 2010

The Chief Accountant submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Financial Services and the Head of Social and Economic Development submitted a joint report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which provided information on actual expenditure and income incurred on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), compared to the latest approved budget for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 June 2010.

The following issues were raised and noted by Councillors :-

- If the Council was now allowed to keep proceeds from properties being sold
- If there should be a policy to ensure that tenants comply with upgrades to their properties.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the financial position on the Housing Revenue Account to 30 June 2010 be noted;
- (2) the Updated Housing Revenue Account Improvement plan be noted.

C33. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010-11 TO 2014-15

The Chief Accountant submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Financial Services (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which determined the Committee's Capital Programme for 2010-2015 based on a review of spending in the current year's programme and schemes included in the programme for later years.

The following issues were raised and noted by Councillors :-

- Update on activity on Waterfield Leisure Pools
- That the Town Area Working Group had been involved in the Cemetery scheme
- That investment and long term management of the railings and footpaths at the Waterfield Leisure Pools could safeguard the Council's commitment to improvements in this area
- Expenditure on the demolition at the South Melton Community Centre was being carried forward from last year due to the outstanding work

RESOLVED that

- (1) the Capital Programme for 2010-2015 be noted;
- (2) Members considered the schemes being submitted in 2010-2015 for funding as part of the budget setting process to ensure they meet the Council's priorities and;
- (3) the budget for the Fairmead Project be transferred from capital to revenue.

C34. BUDGET MONITORING APRIL TO JUNE 2010

The Chief Accountant submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Financial Services (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which provided information on actual expenditure and income incurred on this Committee's services compared to the latest approved budget for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 June 2010.

RESOLVED that the financial position on each of this Committee's services to 30 June be noted.

C35. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) – REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES 2011/12

The Chief Accountant submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Financial Services (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which:-

- (a) provided information on the various fees and charges that were made by this Committee for the Housing Revenue Account;
- (b) recommended changes to these charges to operate from 1 April 2011, other than Council dwelling rents which would be subject to a separate report to be presented to this Committee in January 2011.

The following issues were raised and noted by Councillors :-

- If figures could be rounded up to the nearest 50p to help make collection easier/less costly
- Why the heating charges had decreased
- If income projections had been taken into account in relation to the garages being sold

RESOLVED that the Committee determined the level of charges for 2011/12 for each of the services set out in the attached table.

C36. REVIEW OF CHARGES 2011-12

The Chief Accountant submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Financial Services (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which provided information on the various fees and charges that were made by this Committee and to recommend changes to these charges to operate from 1 April 2011.

The following issues were raised and noted by Councillors :-

- That there would be no extra income from Council tax and the Council would need to look at maximising income
- That charging for football pitches be investigated further
- That Community Centre hire charges be investigated

RESOLVED that

- (1) delegated Authority be granted to the Head of Social and Economic Development in consultation with the Chairman of this Committee to amend the hire charges for the Community Centres in order to encourage maximum use of the facilities;
- (2) fees and charges for football pitches and the new proposed charge for search of records at the cemetery be brought back to the Committee for approval;
- (3) subject to (2) above the level of charges for 2011-12 for each of the services as set out in the Committee report be approved.

C37. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30 p.m., closed at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman