



COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

18<sup>th</sup> June 2014

PRESENT:-

Councillors D.R. Wright (Chairman) J. Illingworth (Vice Chairman), P. Chandler, S. Lumley, J.B. Rhodes, M. Twitney, P. Posnett, T. Moncrieff

As Observer

M. M.Gordon.

As Substitute

G. Bush (as substitute for L Horton), N. Slater (as substitute for M Graham)

Strategic Director (KA), Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, People Manager, Central Services Manager, Housing Asset Manager, Corporate Policy Manager, Community Policy Officer, Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

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C1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Graham and L Horton.

C2. MINUTES

The public and exempt minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman following the amendment below.

C67. Melton Borough Council has approximately 20 people awaiting assessment

**EXCLUSION TO THE PUBLIC.**

**RESOLVED that the Public be excluded during the consideration of the following of business in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information : Exempt Information) under paragraph 3.**

Councillor Rhodes, Bush, Illingworth and Chandler left the meeting at this point by virtue of them being on the planning committee.

Councillor Posnett advised that she would remain under the exemption on accordance with paragraph 13(3)(g) of the Council's Code of conduct.

The exempt minutes were discussed.

C3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Councillors who had left the meeting for the exempt item above returned.

Councillors Rhodes & Posnett declared a personal and non pecuniary interest in relation to any issues concerning the Leicestershire County Council by virtue of them being a County Councillor. Councillor Moncrieff declared a personal interest in anything item relating to G Purchase

C4. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other committees.

C5. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to update Members on the update of decisions from the previous meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the update on decision be noted.

C6. TASK GROUP: GYPSY AND TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION NEEDS

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods clarifies that the task group was being established to create a policy, not allocate land for accommodation needs.

**RESOLVED** that a Gypsy and traveller accommodation needs task group be established consisting of the following Members; Councillor Wright, Chandler, Moncrieff, Holmes and Illingworth.

C7. REDESIGNING THE HOUSING REPAIRS REPORTING SYSTEM

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods presented a report seeking Member's approval to progress the responsive repairs IT process integration project with G Purchase to bring in a more efficient and customer focus repairs reporting system.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods brought members attention to flow chart at Appendix B and outlined the current process that a reported repair would follow.

It was stated that consultation will take place with G Purchase, Customer Services and the change team to ensure that any training needs due to the new system are addressed.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods told Members that a business case outlining resource and financial implications would be brought back to this committee.

Discussion took place regarding the day to day running of the proposed system.

The recommendations were proposed and seconded by Councillor Posnett and Councillor Twitney.

**RESOLVED** that the project mandate be approved to enable officers to progress the Housing responsive repairs IT process integration with G purchase.

C8. HRA- PROVISIONAL YEAR END

The Head of Central Services and the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to provide Members with information on the provisional year end position for 2013 14, which is subject to external audit certification and the implications for the working balance.

The Central Services Manager brought Members attention to Appendix A which outlines the main variances of HRA in excess of £10K.

The Central Services Manager explained that the working balance is in a good position at £1.33m as at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.

**RESOLVED** that the variations to the 2013-14 original estimates, the latest approved estimate and the effect on the working balance be noted.

C9. SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report seeking Members comments and approval of the reviewed and refreshed Social Inclusion Strategy.

The Community Policy Officer brought Members attention to the strategies key priorities at para 3.6 and detailed in the strategy itself on pages 11-13.

The Community Policy Officer explained that newly released data from Census 2011 had initiated a refresh of the Social Inclusion Strategy.

Members congratulated the Community Policy Officer on the standard of the report.

A Member brought attention to some disparities in the strategy document and it was agreed that these would be changed. Members also asked for a paragraph to be included in the strategy regarding obesity and the front page to read 'that our residents will notice'

**RESOLVED** that the Social Inclusion Strategy and the 7 priorities be approved

C10. WHEELS TO WORK

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report updating Members on the Wheels to work scheme and seeking approval for the purchase of additional vehicles.

It was stated that the Corporate Policy Manager will be gathering data to help understand the changes that this scheme has made to individuals.

The Members praised the Wheels to Work scheme and encouraged a communication strategy.

The recommendations were proposed and seconded by Councillor Illingworth and Slater.

**RESOLVED** that

The progress of the W2W scheme and its development into one of the biggest W2W schemes in the country be noted.

The project mandate and business case be approved and recommended to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee inclusion into the 2014/15 Capital Programme.

#### C11. HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to update Members on the progress of the Housing Asset Management Plan.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods brought Members attention to para 3.5 New Build and the appendices A,B and C showing the project timescales.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods advised Members that the final cost for the new build project will be available the week of this committee and that the recommendation for the approval of the final cost will be presented to Policy, Finance and Administration Committee as this committee has already approved the project.

Discussions took place regarding the energy efficiency of council accommodation and the Housing Asset Manager assure Members that a holistic approach has been taken regarding energy efficiency and that a paper will be brought back to this committee concerning this.

The recommendations were proposed and seconded by Councillor Rhodes and Twitney.

**RESOLVED** that the Housing Asset Management Plan Progress as outlined in section 3.4-3.13 of the report be approved.

#### C12. INTENSIVE HOUSING MANAGEMENT SERVICE REPORT

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods presented a report to seek Members approval to progress the design and financial modelling of a new intensive Housing Management Service.

The People Manager explained to Members that as of the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 county council funding will be withdrawn from the sheltered schemes excluding extra care schemes such as Gretton Court. It was stated that any new service will be needs assessed and means tested.

The People and Place Manager explained that the council are aiming to provide a better level of support by charging the tenant directly meaning that the support could be offered even if the person is not living within a sheltered scheme.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stressed that a final decision will not need to be made by this committee until a business case is submitted.

It was clarified that risk 4 on the Risk Matrix at para 9.1 should be moved to D2.

**RESOLVED** that the project mandate is approved and supplementary estimate of £20,000 is allocated from the HRA working balance to allow officers to design and financially model a proposed new Intensive Housing Management Service.

#### C13. PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING GRANT REPAYMENT

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to seek Members approval that where private sector housing grants are repaid, the value of the repayment is recycled to enable additional works to other relevant premises or vulnerable occupiers. During 2013/14 £64k was received in grant repayments which is proposed to be recycled for use in 2014/15.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods advised Members that subject to Members approval there were monies in this scheme and therefore the £25K loan scheme could be removed. It was stated that if the current funds depleted, a further report requesting a budget back into the loan scheme would be brought back to this committee.

Discussion took place around the £25k loan scheme that is currently in place.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) Recycling of any private sector housing grant repayments be approved to enable additional works in the sector and the approval of the use of private sector housing grant repayments received be recommended to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee.
- 2) The £25k be removed from the budget and officers be instructed to come back to this committee if any money is required.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30p.m, closed at 7.55 p.m.

Chairman