



## COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

27th January 2016

### PRESENT:-

Councillor D. Wright (Chairman), T. Bains, T. Beaken, P. Chandler, T. Culley, M. Graham, A. Pearson, J.B Rhodes,

Strategic Director (KA), Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods, Central Services Manager, Communications Manager, Environmental Protection and Safety Manger  
Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods

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#### C41. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Hurrell and Councillor Greenow.

#### C42. MINUTES

The exempt and public minutes from the previous meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

#### C43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Pearson and Councillor Rhodes declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in relation to any issues concerning the Leicestershire County Council by virtue of them being County Councillors.

#### C44. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations received from other committees.

#### C45. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a update on decisions from the previous meeting of the committee which was noted by Members.

#### C46. REVENUE BUDGET PROPOSALS 2016-16- HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)

The Head of Central Services presented a report to set the rents of Council dwellings, approve the HRA estimates for 2016-17 and set the working balance for 2016-17.

The Central Services Manager drew Members attention to the recommendation 2.1 stating that Members are recommended to approve a rent decrease of 1% for all council dwellings with effect from 4<sup>th</sup> April 2006.

The Central Service Manager drew Members attention to Appendix A summarising the revenue account.

Discussion took place in reference to the high value housing and how many of these properties were in Melton. Discussion also took place in regards to the pay to stay scheme. The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that more information would be known in March and suggested that a short paper be brought back to Members in March once more information has been finalised.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that Central Government have proposed that supported housing is exempt from the 1% reduction for 1 year meaning that these properties will go up with the normal rent formula this year.

A Member asked a question relating to bad debt provision and asked if this was the total bad debt owed.

The Central Services Manager advised that the figures are an increase of provision and net movement and not the whole provision needed.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) rent decrease of 1% for all Council dwellings for 2016-17 with effect from 4 April 2016 be approved and that when a property is re-let the rent continues to be brought into line with the Governments formula rent;
- 2) The estimates for 2016-17 be approved subject to the receipt of the limit rent Determination and final details of the 1% rent reduction with delegated authority being given to the Head of Central Services in consultation with the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods to amend the estimated working balance based on any changes.
- 3) The estimates for 2016-17 be approved subject to the receipt of the Determination on high value housing, with delegated authority being given to the Head of Central Services in consultation with the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods to amend the estimated working balance based on this Determination, and in addition, if necessary, the contribution to the Regeneration & Development Reserve;
- 4) A working balance of £992,910 be budgeted for at 31 March 2017 based on a 1% rent decrease.

#### C47. PUBLIC HEALTH FUNERAL POLICY

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to inform Members of the legislative requirements for Public Health Funerals and to seek agreement to the associated policy.

The Environmental Protection and Safety Manger stated that a policy would

ensure that the public understand what the Council would be offering within this service.

The key issues were outlined.

The Environmental Protection and Safety Manager stated that there has been a national increase in use of this service due to the social and economic climate however there had only been 4 cases for this council since 12/13.

It was stated that legislation enables the local authority to claim back the money from the estate. Further details of the policy were outlined by the Environmental Protection and Safety Manager.

Amendments to paragraph 3.2 of the policy were suggested by the Environmental Protection and Safety Manager and agreed by Members. Paragraph 3.2 be amended as below;

3.2 Melton Borough Council Officers are not responsible for clearing or cleaning the property unless the property belongs to Melton Borough Council , in which Communities and Neighbourhoods Officers will be involved. Following the completion of the search the property will be secured and the keys returned to the landlord or other appropriate people. Melton Borough Council Officers are not responsible for dealing with the estate but will utilise the 'Tell us once' service offered by the Registrar, where possible.

Discussion took place regarding grants available to families for funeral costs and the cost to this council for this service.

**RESOLVED** that the policy with suggested amendments be approved.

#### C48. DISPOSAL OF OPEN SPACE- AB KETTLEBY- REVIEW

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods presented a report to ask Members to review their previous decision to dispose of a small area of open space to Ab Kettleby parish Council, after taking into account the comments received.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods outlined the background of the decision made in September 2015 and stated that it had been agreed that any objections deemed as contentious be brought back to this committee. He stated that the consultation had received 17 objections and members were therefore being asked to review the decision.

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods stated that other small areas of open space are maintained in the area therefore there is no financial gain to the council to dispose of the land.

Discussions took place in reference to the nature of the objections.

The motion was moved by Councillor Rhodes and seconded by Councillor Graham.

**RESOLVED** that in account of the objections received by this council the decision previously made on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 be reversed.

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that the Public be excluded during the consideration of the following item(s) of business in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information: Exempt Information under Paragraphs 1 and 2.

#### C49. **ME AND MY LEARNING SERVICE & CUSTOMER SERVICES RESOURCING**

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods and the Head of Communications presented a joint report seeking member comments and support for the proposals submitted to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee in regards to services provided by the Me and My Learning service and Customer Service.

Discussions took place around the Me and My Learning Service and Customer service provision.

**RESOLVED** that the recommendations were approved

1 member abstained from voting.

#### C50. **URGENT BUSINESS**

##### **UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE FOYER PROJECT**

The Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods submitted a report to outline the latest negotiations with Axiom regarding lease and legal arrangements required for the delivery of the Foyer project.

**RESOLVED** that the recommendations put forward by the Members be passed.

The meeting which commenced at 6.30p.m, closed at 8:07 p.m.

Chairman