

Minutes of Health and Housing

Meeting Date: Thursday, 8 June 2023, starting at 6.30 pm
Present: Councillor S Hirst

Councillors:

J Alcock	J Hill
S Atkinson	S Farmer
T Austin	J Hill
I Brown	D O'Rourke
R Elms	M Robinson
S Farmer	N Stubbs
	A Wilkins-Odudu

In attendance: Chief Executive, Head of Environmental Health Services, Strategic Housing Officer, Head of Financial Services and Head of Strategic Planning and Housing

58 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was an apology from Councillor D O'Rourke who had advised that she may be late to the meeting.

59 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

60 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY, OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests.

61 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

62 BRIEFING ON THE WORK OF THE HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference for the Committee were circulated for Members' information.

The Head of Strategic Planning and Housing and the Head of Environmental Health Services gave resumes of the service areas covered under their remits.

63 APPOINTMENT OF WORKING GROUPS

The Chief Executive submitted a report asking Committee to consider the reappointment of the working groups under the remit of the Health & Housing Committee and their membership. The two active working groups under the remit of this Committee were highlighted.

RESOLVED THAT COMMITTEE:

Approve the continuance of the strategic housing and health and wellbeing partnership working groups for the 2023/24 municipal year, each being made up of five members consisting of two Conservatives, one Liberal Democrat, one Labour and one Independent Group Councillor.

Strategic Housing – Councillors S Hirst, S Atkinson, M Robinson, R Ray and J Atherton

Health and Wellbeing Partnership – Councillors S Hirst, R Elms, M Robinson, R Ray and I Brown

64

CAPITAL OUTTURN 2022/23

The Director of Resources submitted a report reviewing the final outturn of the 2022/23 capital programme for this Committee and seeking member approval for the slippage of some capital scheme budgets from the 2022/23 financial year to the 2023/24 financial year.

Members were reminded that the total approved budget for this Committee's capital programme of 10 schemes was £3,581,040. Later in the year the capital programme budget was revised to £1,397,630 in respect of 8 schemes. This followed a review of progress on all schemes in the capital programme and included moving budget of £2,185,460 on 5 schemes into the 2023/24 financial year.

Members were informed that the actual expenditure on this Committee's capital programme was £391,415, which is 28% of the revised estimate budget.

Of the 8 schemes in the revised capital programme 1 was completed in year. The remaining 7 schemes were not completed in-year, however a large proportion of these are ongoing grant schemes. Slippage totalling £1,006,190 from the 2022/23 financial year in to the 2023/24 financial year is requested on these 7 schemes.

RESOLVED THAT COMMITTEE:

Approve the slippage of £1,006,190 as set out at paragraph 3.4 of the report.

65

FPN FINES

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking approval from committee on the new proposal of setting fine levels for fixed penalty notices within the environmental health department.

Members were advised that currently there was no standard approach adopted for setting fine levels within the environmental health department and this has created disproportionality.

RESOLVED THAT COMMITTEE:

1. Approve the proposal to set all FPNs issued by the environmental health department to the maximum level allowed at the time of being issued.
2. Approve the proposal that where an FPN payment is made within 14 days, the fine is to be reduced by a quarter (rounded to the nearest pound).

66

PEST CONTROL UPDATE

The Chief Executive submitted a report providing committee with an update of the expansion of the services offered by pest control.

It was noted that the Council's pest contractor will now undertake treatments for:

- Rats
- Mice
- Wasps
- Moles
- Squirrels
- Fleas
- Flies
- Beetles
- Cockroaches

67

EX OFFENDERS ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report updating members on the Accommodation of Ex-Offenders scheme operating across East Lancashire. This scheme supports ex-offenders into their own Private Rented Sector (PRS) tenancies.

It was noted that the award for the East Lancashire Authorities is:

- 2023/24 - £116,404
- 2024/25 - £116,404

Burnley Borough Council is the lead Authority and they have entered into a service level agreement with the support provider Calico to administer the scheme.

The scheme provides an additional resource to RVBC whereby the Housing team make a referral to Calico as soon as a 'duty to refer,' or any homeless case is received from Probation. Calico will then assist ex-offenders to find suitable accommodation in the private rented sector.

68

HOME UPGRADE GRANT (HUG) SCHEME PHASE 2

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report to make members aware of the availability of the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) and to encourage uptake across the Borough. The scheme applies to off mains gas properties.

It was noted that the Borough has a high percentage of off mains gas properties and therefore it is important that residents are aware of the availability of the scheme as often rural properties are not eligible for grant schemes. The availability of the scheme will be promoted through the Council's website, press releases and Parish Councils.

69

MINUTES OF WORKING GROUPS

Committee noted the minutes of the Strategic Housing working group that took place on 11 April 2023.

70 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Former Councillor David Peat submitted a report relating to the Lancashire Mental Health Partnership Board Consultation on 15 March 2023 and the Lancashire County Council NHS and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on 22nd March 2023.

71 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That by virtue of the next item of business being exempt information under Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be now excluded from the meeting.

72 UPDATE ON GRANT APPROVALS

The Director of Economic Development and Planning submitted a report informing Committee of recent approvals for Disabled Facilities Grants and Landlord Tenant Grants.

The meeting closed at 7.09 pm

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, Jenny Martin jenny.martin@ribblevalley.gov.uk jenny.martin@ribblevalley.gov.uk.