



MINUTES

Environment, Health and Housing Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 5 September 2017
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Ben Aitken (Chairman) Councillor Viv Willder (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Peter Anthony, Maxine Chew, Susan Fazackerley, John Kirkham, Roger Lloyd, Barbara Nash, Graeme Neale, Louis Rigby.
Other Councillors Present:	None
Officers Present:	Tracy Morrison, Mark Evans, Kirstine Riding, Jerry Friel, Sharon Wadsworth
Other Attendees:	Kim Cook and Richard Nulty representing Citizens Advice Fylde. One member of the public.

Public Platform

Representatives from Citizens Advice Fylde were invited by the Chairman to address the committee regarding Item 10 – Citizens Advice Fylde Annual Report.

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members. There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee meeting held on 20 June 2017 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

The following substitutions were reported under Council procedure rule 24(c):

Councillor Barbara Nash substituting for Councillor Gail Goodman

Councillor Susan Fazackerley substituting for Councillor Shirley Green

Decision Items

4. Refurbishment of 93 St Albans Road, St Annes - Update

Kirstine Riding, Housing Services Manager, introduced the report that provided an update to the committee on the proposed refurbishment of 93 St Albans Road, St Annes, which was to be funded from S106 developer contributions. The proposed works would transform the property from a single dwelling over three floors to two self-contained affordable housing units.

The Council acquired the property through a compulsory purchase order (CPO) on the 2nd June 2016. The Statement of Reasons that supported the CPO contemplated that the Council would transfer the property to New Progress Housing Association. New Progress had since withdrawn from the scheme.

A revised structure to the scheme had been sought, to be delivered through a jointly-funded venture with ForViva Housing Association, resulting in a reduced requirement for S106 funding by Fylde Council. The committee welcomed and supported the project proposed for ForViva Housing Association to complete the refurbishment of 93 St Albans. A contribution of £35,096 from the new Registered Provider ensured the overall scheme cost remained the same.

Following a brief discussion it was unanimously RESOLVED:

1. To note the current position with regard to the proposed development at 93 St Albans Road, St Annes and the revised structure of the proposed scheme;
 2. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval for an addition to the Capital Programme in 2017/18 in the sum of £147,890 in respect of the St Albans Road scheme, to be met from S106 developer contributions held by the Council for affordable housing in the sum of £112,794 and a contribution from ForViva Housing Association of £35,096.
3. Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre CVS Support

Tracy Morrison, Director of Resources, introduced a report with a request for an 'in kind' contribution from The Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Council of Voluntary Services (CVS). The CVS is funded through the Countywide Infrastructure Support Programme (CISP) as part of the LCC Central Gateway Grants. Future funding had been confirmed for a period of 18 months subject to the body working in partnership and obtaining an 'in kind' contribution from the Local Authority. This type of contribution was not a monetary request but a commitment from the Council to host a 'hot desk' one day a week for the use of the CVS coordinator to an estimated notional value of £1,500. It had been ascertained that the council could accommodate office space in the public reception area for two sessions per week.

Members complimented the work undertaken by the CVS and the benefit to communities as a whole but concerns were raised regarding any potential requests in the future from other bodies requesting support by means of office space.

The committee RESOLVED to approve an 'in kind' contribution to support the continued work of the CVS, estimated at a notional value of approximately £1,500, subject to review by the committee in 12 months' time to evaluate the use.

4. Outside Bodies

Councillor Ben Aitken, introduced a report that requested a nomination for one representative to formerly fill the vacancy that had arisen on the Fylde & Wyre Health & Wellbeing Partnership outside body. Councillor Willder had in the interim been attending any meetings.

Included in the report, in accordance with the Protocol for Members on Outside Bodies, were the reports from members representing the council on the various outside bodies (within the remit of the committee) for information purposes.

The committee RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that Councillor Viv Willder be appointed as the representative on Fylde & Wyre Health & Wellbeing Partnership outside body.

Information Items

The following information items were received by the committee.

5. Empty Residential Property Position Statement

Annual update on the number of long-term empty residential properties within the borough showing a significant and continuing reduction in the number of properties empty for more than two years since 2014.

6. Update on the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan 2013-2018

Annual strategy action plan update. Work was to begin in Autumn 2017 on the new Homeless Strategy ready to meet the statutory deadline of 31st July 2018.

Kirstine Riding, Housing Services Manager, took the opportunity at this point to introduce Jerry Friel, the new Tenancy Support Worker, to the committee. Mr. Friel addressed the committee and provided members with examples of the type of complex needs he assists with to help in the reduction of homelessness.

7. Age UK Lancashire – Annual Report

As part of its Service Level Agreement, Age UK had provided an annual update summarising their performance over the previous year.

8. Citizens Advice Fylde – Annual Report

(This item was taken at the beginning of the meeting)

As part of its Service Level Agreement, Citizens Advice Fylde provided an annual update summarising their performance, challenges and services provided throughout the year.

Kim Cook, Citizens Advice Fylde's Chief Executive Officer and Richard Nulty, Chairman of Citizens Advice Fylde were invited by the Chairman to address the committee. Mr. Nulty addressed the committee highlighting the main points of the report including the ongoing challenges the service faces. Mr. Nulty advised members that he would be stepping down as chairman at the next AGM of Citizens Advice Fylde and expressed his personal thank you to members and officers of the council for all the support given to the Citizens Advice organization over the years.

9. General Fund Revenue Budget Monitoring report 2017/18 – Position as at 31 July 2017

The information report provided an update of the Council's General Fund Revenue Budget as at 31st July 2017 and specifically for those areas under the Committee's remit.

10. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2017/18 – Position as at 31 July 2017

This information report provided an update of the Council's approved Capital Programme as at 31st July 2017 with specific reference to those schemes under the Committee's remit.

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