



MINUTES

Environment, Health and Housing Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 9 January 2018
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Ben Aitken (Chairman) Councillors Maxine Chew, Susan Fazackerley MBE, Gail Goodman, Angela Jacques, John Kirkham, Roger Lloyd, Graeme Neale, and Louis Rigby.
Other Councillors Present:	Councillor Karen Buckley
Officers Present:	Tracy Morrison, Paul Walker, Darren Bell, Tom Birtwistle, Katharine McDonnell
Other Attendees:	Six members of the public.

A minute's silence was held in memory of Councillor Barbara Nash who suddenly and sadly passed away on 20 December 2017.

Public Platform

There were none on this occasion.

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 7 November 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 Susan Fazackerley substituting for Councillor Viv Willder

4. 93 St Albans Road Change of Name for Property Transfer and Grant Agreement

The Chairman agreed that the item be included on the agenda as an urgent item. It had been circulated to the committee after the publication of the agenda.

Paul Walker, Director of Development Services, introduced the report and explained that during the conveyancing process for the property (93 St Albans Road) it had become clear that there was an issue with the named organisation ForViva. The issue being that ForViva was a Community Benefit Society as such could not hold assets. He explained that ForViva was set up as a Group Registered Provider Structure. The organisation within the Group which could hold assets was City West Housing Trust Limited. As such Mr Walker was seeking the committee's approval to amend the Registered Provider to City West Housing Trust Limited.

The Committee asked why this had not been known about previously. Mr Walker advised that all negotiations had been with the parent company ForViva, and it was the conveyancing process that had highlighted the issue.

It was RESOLVED to approve that City West Housing Trust Limited as the Registered Provider that the Council would transfer the Order Land of 93 St Albans Road to, and enter into the grant agreement with, for conversion into 2 or 3 self-contained flats, which ForViva Housing Association would subsequently operate.

5. Disabled Facility Grant Additional Allocation 2017-18

Tom Birtwistle, Principal Environmental Health Officer - Housing, introduced a report regarding the allocation of additional funding for the Disabled Facilities Grant announced in the Autumn Budget. Mr Birtwistle explained that the money would be paid directly to Fylde Borough Council, instead of the usual route via Lancashire County Council. The additional money had to be spent within the current financial year.

He further advised that the funding may increase as not all Local Authorities may take up the additional funding. He concluded by advising that the grant letter from the government had not been received, which would detail the exact amount of funding and how the funding could be spent.

The committee asked if there was a risk that the funding may be claimed back if not spent within the current financial year, as there were only three months of the financial year left.

Tom advised that the housing team were confident of spending all the additional funding, especially as it was anticipated that the funding could be spent on wider social care projects in addition to the Disabled Facilities Grants.

The committee proposed a vote of thanks to the Housing Team in their success with the Disabled Facilities Grant.

It was therefore RESOLVED:

1. To recommend to the Finance and Democracy Committee approval of a fully-funded increase in the cost of the DFG scheme within the approved Capital Programme for 2017/18 in the sum of the initial grant allocation of £91,882 (and any additional monies that may be allocated if the grant is not taken by all local authorities in England), fully-funded by the Better Care Fund/DFG grant; and
2. To note the content of the report, the on-going work to appraise available options and current guidance available on how the funding may be used;
3. To formally thank the Housing Team for their work and success with the processing of the Disabled Facilities Grants.

5. Budget Setting – Fees and Charges 2018/19

Tracy Morrison, Director of Resources, introduced a report which provided detail of the proposed fees and charges for 2018/19, for activities within the remit of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee.

She advised that some of the fees and charges were set through statute at a prescribed level, other services where the Council had a statutory responsibility only eligible costs could be recovered through the level of fees, and there were also discretionary fees and charges where the Council was providing non-statutory services.

The committee RESOLVED to

1. Recommend to Council a proposed schedule of fees and charges applicable for 2018/19; and
2. Note that the final fees and charges for 2018/19 would be approved by the Budget Council in March 2018.

Information Items

The following information items were received by the committee.

6. Budget Setting – Revenue Budget 2018/19 – First Draft

The Committee were advised that the first draft of the Revenue Budget for 2018/19, specifically in relation to the service areas under the remit of the committee, was now available to view. Members were encouraged to contact the Chief Financial Officer, Senior Officers or budget holders if they had questions or required clarification.

7. Revenue Budget Monitoring Report 2017/18 – Position as at 30th November 2017

The committee received the Revenue Budget Monitoring report as at 30th November 2017. Ms Morrison advised that there had been a reduction in crematorium and interment income, an explanation of which was provided in the commentary accompanying the report.

8. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2017/18 – Position as at 30th November 2017

The committee received the Capital Programme Monitoring report as at 30th November 2017, with particular regard to those projects within the remit of the committee.

9. Mid-Year Performance 2017/18

The committee received the mid-year performance report for areas within the remit of committee.

Two of the performance targets related to homelessness and homelessness prevention. The committee had a lengthy discussion regarding homelessness in the borough, the differing circumstances which cause homelessness and the difference between rough sleepers and those who live in temporary accommodation.

10. St Annes Bathing Waters 2017

The committee received the latest available information regarding the quality of the bathing water at St Annes.

There were questions regarding the process of measuring the water quality. There was also a wider discussion regarding water quality, the various factors that impacted on water quality and the infrastructure required to improve water quality across the Fylde.

11. Hate Crime Strategy

The committee received information regarding the recently adopted Lancashire Hate Crime Strategy 2017-2020 and Hate Crime Delivery Plan 2017-18.

Whilst acknowledging that it was not linked to the Hate Crimes Strategy, there was some discussion regarding the abuse, particularly online, that some of the Councillors faced. The Chairman undertook to bring the matter up with the Police Crime Commissioner.

12. Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017/19

The committee received the recently approved Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017/19.

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