



# MINUTES

## Environment, Health and Housing Committee

<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 20 June 2017
<b>Venue:</b>	Town Hall, St Annes.
<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	Councillor Ben Aitken (Chairman) Councillor Viv Willder (Vice-Chairman)  Councillors Maxine Chew, Gail Goodman JP, Shirley Green, Peter Hardy, Angela Jacques, John Kirkham, Roger Lloyd, Graeme Neale, Louis Rigby.
<b>Other Councillors Present:</b>	Councillors Sue Fazackerley and Karen Buckley
<b>Officers Present:</b>	Tracy Morrison, Allan Oldfield, Kirstine Riding, Chris Hambly, Tom Birtwistle and Katharine McDonnell
<b>Other Attendees:</b>	Bev Sykes and Mike, Just Good Friends and one member of the public.

### Public Platform

There were no speakers 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.

#### 2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee meeting held on 14 March 2017 as a correct record for signature by the Vice Chairman.

#### 3. Substitute Members

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

Councillor John Kirkham for Councillor Delma Collins

### Decision Items

#### 4. Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Further Report 2017

Tom Birtwistle, Principle Housing Services Officer, presented the Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Further Report advising that to comply with government guidance, the report was published every two years to detail actions taken by the council to reduce residential carbon dioxide omissions in the area.

He advised that since 2013 the council had to produce a report every two years to detail how the Council would reduce this.

In response to questions Mr Birtwistle to his knowledge confirmed that the borough has no residential properties with the external insulation cladding of the type seen in the Grenfell Tower fire in London however several departments within in the Council such as Building Control and Planning are currently dealing with this matter.

It was RESOLVED to approve the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 further report of March 2017.

#### 5. Housing Services Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy

Tom Birtwistle, Principle Housing Services Officer, presented the Housing Services Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy. He advised that the new policy outlined the provision of information, action and advice provided by Housing Services to private home owners and tenants in regards to disability adaptations, energy efficiency and other support for their home.

He further advised that with recent funding the Housing Services team had been able to remove the wait time for adaptations. He reported that it was estimated that around 15 referrals a month were required to justify the continued funding. However with Occupational Therapy referrals from Lancashire County Council taking up to 12 months to reach Fylde Council, the proposed policy was a way of looking at a better ways of working. The policy proposed increasing referrals through targeted promotions; and employing an Occupational Therapist to avoid the lengthy referral process through Lancashire County Council.

In response to questions, Mr Birtwistle advised that the Occupational Therapist assessments would be referred back to Lancashire County Council to ensure that residents did not miss out on other services supplied by Lancashire County.

The committee thanked the Housing Services team for the innovative way the team had tackle the backlog of Disabled Facilities Grants and moved the service forward.

It was RESOLVED;

1. To approve the flexible use of its Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) budget during 2017-18 to facilitate the delivery of adaptations which will address Better Care Fund (BCF) priorities more effectively. This will include the removal of the 'test of resources' for adaptations under £6,000;
2. To approve the authorisation of a grant award of up to £10,000 in excess of the DFG mandatory maximum grant of £30,000, to carry out DFG eligible work as recommended by an Occupational Therapist;
3. To review the administration fee which the Council receives for management of DFG works in conjunction with finance officers;
4. To approve a targeted promotion of DFG's be undertaken through partner and third sector agencies to increase referrals;
5. To explore the potential employment on a case-by-case basis of an Occupational Therapist to process the numbers of referrals received by the Council through a targeted promotion of DFG's by our partner, third sector agencies and potentially from county council, and report back to this Committee in due course;
6. To approve the commissioning of additional technical resources on a flexible basis to assist in the increased workload placed on the Housing Services Team to deliver Disabled Facility Grants, to be funded from additional administration fees receivable by the Council;
7. To explore the options to undertake capital projects with the approval of Registered Providers to improve the housing on offer within the boroughs supported housing schemes, and report back to this Committee in due course;
8. To recommend to Council the creation of a new scheme within the 2017/18 approved Capital Programme to be termed 'Housing Needs Grant' that will be funded from DFG grant repayments (those being in the event of the sale of a property for which a DFG was previously awarded) to be used to fund grants to

qualifying persons in respect of affordable warmth measures, boiler servicing and repairs to vulnerable clients; and

9. To approve a review of the proposed changes and to report back to the Environment, Health and Housing committee in due course.

#### 6. Community Housing Fund

Kirstine Riding, Housing Services Manager, presented a report regarding the Community Housing Fund. She advised that the fund was announced in December 2016 by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The fund was established to enable community led housing schemes. She advised that the level of funding was based on the number of second homes within the borough. In the first year Fylde had been awarded £440,381 to set up support hubs to provide advice, business planning, provide for staff to review local housing need and to essential create a proposal on how to deliver the community housing fund in future years.

Miss Riding advised that it was proposed to recruit to a new post to publicise the Community Housing Fund and understand the groups already out in the community and the level of interest within those existing groups to access the Community Housing Fund.

It was RESOVLED;

1. To note the contents of the report and the proposals to take forward the Community Housing Fund in Fylde, noting that the funds in Year 1 should be used to develop an approach that fits within the current situation within the borough and a need to raise awareness of the Community Led Housing;
2. To recommend to Council approval of a fully-funded revenue budget increase for the total sum of £440,381 funded by the Community Housing Fund grant in the same sum;
3. Subject to 2 above, approve the engagement of a shared Community Housing Fund Development Officer (with Lancaster City Council) initially for a 12-month period to identify and build capacity within local groups by mapping existing interest and developing supporting information for groups to enable the local authority to draw down subsequent years funding to deliver housing on the ground for local people; and
4. Subject to 2 above, approve that part of the funding in the sum of £100,000 be used to provide support for the Church Road Methodist Church Project, (Committee 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016) which would in turn allow the S106 funds previously ear-marked for this project to be re-directed to support other affordable housing developments elsewhere in the Borough.

#### 7. Rapid Deployment Cameras and the Provision of CCTV

Chris Hambly, Environmental Health Manager, presented a report detailing the conclusions of the CCTV Working Group. He advised that the group had been formed in November 2016 to consider the future use of rapid deployment cameras. Mr Hambly emphasised that any use of CCTV had to be done with consideration to the Surveillance Code of Practice.

He explained that there were three systems of CCTV; a monitored system which was operated by Blackpool on behalf of Wyre and Fylde through a Service Level Agreement; CCTV vans which were particularly useful as they could be moved quickly and deployed at events; and Rapid Deployment Cameras (RDC) which was fixed to a pole in areas of high crime or incidences of anti-social behaviour. RDC were not connected to the monitored system.

Mr Hambly advised that the existing RDC were now ageing and had rising costs in regards to maintenance and deployment. He further advised there were only seven still in operation. The police supported the use of the vans over the use of RDC. The working group recommended the cessation of the use of RDC, to continue to repair and replace CCTV equipment in the vans when necessary, with the added consideration of including within the monitored system those locations where the RDC had been previously been deployed.

In addition Mr Hambly advised that a number of body cameras would be purchased to be worn by enforcement officers including the dog wardens, however he advised that these would not be filming constantly, only being deployed when necessary.

In response to questions Mr Hambly advised that the CCTV van was used operationally by the police but it could be difficult to provide a CCTV van to an ongoing incident.

It was RESOLVED;

1. That consideration is given to ceasing the purchase and support of Rapid Deployment Cameras and the capital budget be used to support the provision of the existing CCTV maintained system;
2. That the feasibility of extending the current maintained system is explored to include locations where rapid deployment cameras have previously been deployed;
3. That continued support is provided to the maintenance of equipment in the CCTV vans but any subsequent replacement of the actual CCTV vehicles be dealt through Capital or Funding Bids, rather than the existing budget provision; and
4. To adopt the proposed policy regarding the use of Body Worn Cameras.

#### 8. Outside Body Request – Just Good Friends

Allan Oldfield, Chief Executive, presented a request from Just Good Friends, a local charity formed to combat loneliness, for an elected member representative and to be included on the council's list of recognised Outside Bodies. The group believe that Councillors have fabulous links to the community of people who need the group's services in helping people combating loneliness and isolation.

Bev Sykes from Just Good Friends spoke about how and why the group started. Bev spoke about the membership and how the group sustained itself financially. She spoke about how the group were applying for funding to try and expand the services the group offered, such as including providing transport to outlying areas of the borough.

It was RESOLVED that

1. The committee recommend to Council that the charity Just Good Friends is added to the list of approved list of Outside Bodies for Fylde Council;
2. Councillor Viv Willder and Councillor Gail Goodman be nominated for Council approval as the representatives on Just Good Friends, subject to 1 above; and
3. The committee formally extends the invite to visit Just Good Friends to all elected members and learn more about the work the charity does and support where possible referrals from the local community.

#### Information Items

The following information items were receive by the committee.

#### 9. Disabled Facility Grant Performance (Working Group Update)

The committee received information regarding Disabled Facility Grant (DFG) performance, with comparisons provided with last year's figures, included with the information were comments from the DFG satisfaction surveys. Tom Birtwistle confirmed that nearly all the working group recommendations had been completed.

#### 10. Annual Overview – Fylde Community Safety Partnership 2016/17

The committee received the Annual Overview from the Fylde Community Safety Partnership for 2016/17, particular focus had been on troubled families, with early intervention practices being employed to reduce the level of anti-social behaviour.

#### 11. Fly-tipping Prosecution Update

The committee were provided with information in regards to a recent successful fly-tipping prosecution. The committee congratulated the Environment Health, Legal and Operational Waste teams.

The committee asked a number of questions regarding methods of prevention. Chris Hambly, Environmental Health Manager, advised that any evidence would be gratefully received by the team to combat the problem.

#### 12. Year End Performance Exception 2016/17

The committee received information pertinent to the performance indicators within the remit of the committee.

#### 13. Capital Programme Monitoring Report 2016/17 – Outturn Position 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

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The committee were provided with the Capital Programme Monitoring Report in regards to the outturn position as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

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