

HOUSING COMMITTEE
5 JULY 2017

Present: Councillor E Kerry, Chair

Councillors: D Bagshaw (substitute)
S A Bagshaw
L A Ball BEM
M J Crow
J C Goold
J K Marsters
J M Owen
J C Patrick
A W G A Stockwell

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J W McGrath.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors L A Ball BEM and R I Jackson declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 5 due to them being private landlords, minute no. 4 refers.

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2017 were confirmed and signed.

3. **HOMELESSNESS REDUCTION ACT 2017**

The Committee received an update on the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 which gained Royal Assent on the 27 April 2017. It was noted that there was to be an estimate 60% growth in homelessness referral numbers nationally. It was further reported that an estimated £60,000 funding for two years would be available to local authorities in order to deal with the additional that the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 would introduce.

4. **SOCIAL LETTING AGENCY UPDATE**

The Committee received an update on the Council's Social Letting Agency which had been piloted by the Council's Housing Allocations and Options team since January 2015. The Council's Social Letting Agency had primarily focussed on being a private rented access scheme in which applicants on the Council's housing register could gain access to the private rented sector. A number of private sector landlords had made requests for a property management service and they have indicated that they would be willing to pay for the service if this was provided by the Council.

(Councillors L A Ball BEM and R I Jackson, having declared a pecuniary interest in the item, left the meeting during consideration of the matter and did not therefore take part in the debate or vote on it.)

5. COMPARISON FOR VOID MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Committee noted the services on offer from Robin Hood Energy and British Gas. It was noted that there was no advantage to be gained from switching the service from British Gas to Robin Hood Energy.

RESOLVED that the continued working with British Gas be approved.

6. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – UPDATE TO BUSINESS PLAN MODEL

The Committee received an updated on the Housing Revenue Account financial model to reflect the 2017/18 budget and changes that have taken place over the past year. The Housing Revenue Account was projected to be viable for the next 30 years and there is sufficient flexibility to provide the necessary finance for the capital programme.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the updated financial model for the Housing Revenue Account be approved.

7. GRENFELL FIRE

The Committee were updated on the safety of tenants and residents in the borough of Broxtowe following the fire at Grenfell Tower in North Kensington, London. The Committee were informed that there were no tower blocks within the borough and any buildings with cladding were not clad with the same material as the Grenfell tower block. The Committee inquired as to whether fire doors were legally required in flats that were sold privately from Council stock. The Committee were advised that fire doors were only advisory when properties are sold privately. The Committee requested that further information be provided at a future meeting.

8. WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme and resolved to amend the Work Programme to include further detail on the use of fire doors.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme be approved subject to the aforementioned amendments.

Chair _____