

**HOUSING COMMITTEE**  
**29 MARCH 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

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J A Doddy, J W McGrath and M Radulovic MBE.

44. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor M J Crow declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 due to her letting out of a property in Nottingham City Council's area, minute no. 48 refers.

45. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2017 were confirmed and signed.

46. **ROBIN HOOD ENERGY LIMITED**

The Committee considered the report which advised of the potential benefits for both tenants and the Council of using Robin Hood Energy Limited for the provision of gas and electricity supplies.

A representative from the company gave a presentation to members which, amongst other things, informed on options to address fuel poverty, the void switching service and smart meters. The service was run on a not-for-profit basis and it utilised comparison sites to ensure that competitive rates were offered to its users.

Members sought clarity on the company's customer relationship management process and potential barriers to entry. Officers sought clarification on void switching packages and time lines in comparison to arrangements with its current contractor.

**RESOLVED that a further report containing more detail be brought to the next meeting of the Committee.**

47. AIDS AND ADAPTATIONS POLICY

The Committee considered the draft Aids and Adaptations Policy for tenants in Council owned dwellings. Members sought clarification on operational issues relating to the installation of aids and adaptations at properties in terms of which were installed by Social Services and which were installed by the Borough Council. It was noted that where adaptations had been carried out and the occupants subsequently moved, every effort was made to ensure that future tenants were matched with the aids and adaptations carried out at the vacated property.

**RESOLVED that the Aids and Adaptations Policy be approved.**

48. NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL CONSULTATION OF SELECTIVE LICENSING

The Committee considered the consultation document received from Nottingham City Council on the proposal to introduce a scheme of selective licensing of all private rented dwellings in the city. Nottingham City Council had formally consulted Broxtowe Borough Council whose members had been invited to respond to the consultation.

It was noted that, should the scheme proceed, there would be staffing implications for Broxtowe since it would be time consuming.

Councillor P D Simpson proposed that the scheme should be considered from the Borough's perspective taking into consideration Broxtowe's HMO Policy and that such considerations should be brought back to Committee. Councillor A W G A Stockwell seconded the proposal which was carried.

**RESOLVED that:**

- 1. A consultation response be formed by the Chair, the Director of Housing, Leisure and Property Services and the Head of Public Protection to incorporate the comments of the meeting.**
- 2. Further consideration be given to HMOs in the Borough.**

(Councillor M J Crow, 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.)

49. HOUSEMARK ANNUAL REPORT

Members considered the contents of the Council's annual housing benchmarking report from HouseMark and noted its content. The Committee also received further information on quarterly benchmarking which gave more up to date information following publication of the agenda.

50. PAY TO STAY

The Committee considered the introduction of higher rents for high income social tenants known as Pay to Stay and noted that the non-mandatory scheme had not, as yet, been implemented by any other local authority.

**RESOLVED that Pay to Stay be not implemented.**

51. WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme and resolved to amend the Work Programme to include Robin Hood Energy on the agenda for its next meeting, postpone the Housemark Update from its 7 June meeting to its September meeting and to include Assistive Living on the Work Programme.

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

Chair \_\_\_\_\_