

HOUSING COMMITTEE
20 SEPTEMBER 2017

Present: Councillor E Kerry, Chair

Councillors: S A Bagshaw J K Marsters
 L A Ball BEM J M Owen
 J Briggs J C Patrick
 J C Goold A W G A Stockwell
 G Harvey

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

9. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor L A Ball BEM declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 6 due to being an East Midlands Property Owner, minute 17 refers.

10. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2017 were confirmed and signed.

11. **PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – REVIEW OF BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS – HOUSING**

The Committee considered the progress against outcome targets identified in the Housing Business Plan. The performance indicators are produced quarterly and the report was intended to provide the Committee with an overview of progress towards Corporate Plan priorities.

12. **HOUSING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**

The Committee reviewed the Housing Service Annual Report 2016/17. It was noted that the report was a regulatory requirement of the Homes & Communities Agency's Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Standard. Within this report, the Council must include information on repairs and maintenance budgets and the number of complaints received in regards to social housing.

The Committee was informed that feedback received from residents requested that the information included within the report be streamlined in order to provide more succinct information.

RESOLVED that the Housing Service Annual Report 2016/17 be approved.

13. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2017-2021

The Committee received an update on the Homelessness Strategy 2017-2021. The Council is required to produce a new Homelessness Strategy within a period of five years beginning with the day on which the last Homelessness Strategy was published. The latest Homelessness Strategy had been produced in conjunction with Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils. It was noted that new strategy would strengthen the pathways available for service personnel facing homelessness. In addition, the Committee was informed that the Council had entered an into Armed Forces Covenant to reduce the risk of homelessness amongst service personnel.

RESOLVED that the Homelessness Strategy be approved.

14. CAPITA PROJECT UPDATE

The Committee was advised of the progress made in implementing the Capita upgrade. It was estimated that the upgrade would be in place by 2018.

RESOLVED that the progress of the Capita project be approved.

15. GAS SAFETY AND SERVICING ELECTRICAL SAFETY POLICIES

The Committee reviewed the revised Gas Safety and Servicing Electrical Safety Policies. The policies were revised after consultation with internal staff, Browne Jacobson LLP and an external gas consultant. The policies were revised to take into account the need to ensure vulnerable residents were considered throughout the process and to ensure that best practise was followed.

RESOLVED that the Gas Safety and Servicing Policy and Electrical Safety Policy be approved.

16. FUTURE OF THE RETIREMENT LIVING SERVICE

The Committee was informed of the options available for the future of the Retirement Living Service. It was highlighted that the current service needed to be reviewed. This was attributed to the works required to modernise schemes that had aged and Retirement Living Officers being required to care for tenants with more complex health needs. It was proposed that an option study be commissioned.

RECOMMENDED to the Finance and Resources Committee that a sum of £20,000 be allocated from HRA reserves to fund an options study for the future of the Retirement Living Service.

17. WARM HOMES ON PRESCRIPTION SCHEME

The Committee was informed of the proposed Warm Homes on Prescription Scheme. It was noted that the Council was exploring the option to join with other authorities within Nottinghamshire to pool resources and allocate funding from Disabled Facilities Grants to fund the Warm Homes on Prescription Scheme. A capital budget could be established for the scheme utilising £20,000 from the 2017/18 Disabled Facilities Grants budget along with an unspent £46,500 from the 2016/17 Disabled Facilities Grants budget for assistive technology.

RESOLVED that the introduction of the Warm Homes on Prescription Scheme be approved and **RECOMMENDED** to the Finance and Resources Committee that a budget of £66,500 be allocated to the scheme in the 2017/18 capital programme to be funded from the Better Care Fund.

18. WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the Committee's Work Programme and resolved to amend the Work Programme to include further detail on the grants awarded to the Warm Homes on Prescription Scheme.

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