



HOUSING SELECT COMMITTEE

Meeting: Thursday, 10 September 2015 at 6.30 pm in the Octagon Lounge, Buxton Pavilion Gardens

Present: Councillor A McKeown (Chairman)

Councillors Atkins, Easter, Flower, Grooby and Robins

Tenant/Independent Members – R Bowen, K Martin and K Smith

Councillors McCabe and Thrane were also in attendance.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Sloman.

The meeting was preceded by a minute's silence in memory of Graham Fox and Sue Shaw, formerly from the Gamesley Neighbourhood Office, who had recently passed away. On behalf of the Committee a letter of condolence would be sent to Lynda Fox and family.

16/19 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
(Agenda Item 2)

Councillor Atkins declared an 'other' interest in any item (reason: stepson is High Peak Borough Council tenant).

16/20 **MINUTES**
(Agenda Item 4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2015 be approved as a correct record.

16/21 **AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT**
(Agenda Item 5)

There was an update on the delivery of affordable housing across the Borough. It was reported that a timetable for work to Peveril House was expected, discussions on the Otter Hole site were taking place, the planning application for Surrey Street had been received and the New Mills site was listed as an allocated housing site in the former Local Plan.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted and a report be requested to a future meeting on options for using the Council's right-to-buy receipts.



16/22 UPDATE ON DCC CHALLENGE ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO HOUSING RELATED DCC SUPPORT SERVICES PROGRAMME
(Agenda Item 6)

There was an update with the latest information regarding the Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Challenge and proposed changes to Housing Related Support (HRS) services programme (formerly known as Supporting People funding [SP]).

Issues discussed included:

- Older Persons Floating Support contract reduced by £20,000 and, if not funded, possible charge included with rent.
- Proposal to cut funding from March 2016 for sheltered housing.
- Support provided including medication prompts and group activities.
- Uncertainties about Housing Revenue Account (HRA) funding, service reviews and need for a timetable to deal with any restructuring.
- Resident Warden at Hartington Gardens.
- Providing a level of service regardless of DCC funding.
- Existing residents taking up accommodation because of the level of support.
- DCC contribution of £128,000, reduced Borough Council funds plus ring fenced funding from the HRA.
- Member consideration of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- Changes to tenants' contracts.
- Consultation on closure of respite care at Eccles Fold and subsequent effect.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and officers requested to report back periodically as further information becomes available.

16/23 SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME
(Agenda Item 7)

A report on the Housing Bill would be added.

RESOLVED:

That the updated work programme be noted.

16/24 SYRIA CRISIS

Consideration was given to the recent DCC statement outlining its support for Syrian refugees. It was reported that there would be a media statement by the Borough Council Leader.

Discussion took place on:



- Recent announcement in the House of Commons accepting £20,000 refugees over the next 5 years and detailed information awaited including funding.
- 200 planned in Derbyshire and 5 per year in each Derbyshire local authority.
- Jason Hawkes as the contact in High Peak.
- Humanitarian collections at the Green Man Gallery, Buxton and Peak Creative, Glossop.
- Residents being largely supportive.
- 5 refugees could be individuals, orphans, the elderly or a family.
- Syrian Vulnerable Persons Scheme.
- Possible range of services required.
- Refugee status.
- Asylum seekers based around cities.
- Restricted funding.

RESOLVED:

That the update be received with thanks and a briefing be emailed to all members as soon as possible.

16/25 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**
(Agenda Item 11)

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as there may be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

SUMMARY OF EXEMPT ITEMS

16/26 **MINUTES**
(Agenda Item 10)

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2015 be approved.

16/27 **PROGRAMMED HEATING REPLACEMENTS 15/16 AND 16/17**
(Agenda Item 11)

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted and the Executive be recommended to approve the recommendations in section 8 of the report.



The meeting concluded at 7.38 pm.

CHAIRMAN