

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 30 September 2020

Attendance:

Councillors
Clear (Chairperson)

Laming
Achwal
Bell
Hutchison

McLean
Pearson
Read
Williams

Deputy Members:

Councillor Gemmell (as deputy for Councillor Scott)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Thompson (Leader and Cabinet Member for Communications),
Learney (Cabinet Member for Housing and Asset Management) and Murphy
(Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency)

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Horrill

[Full audio recording and video recording](#)

1. **APOLOGIES AND DEPUTY MEMBERS**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Scott, with Councillor Gemmell attending as deputy member.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No disclosures of interest were declared.

3. **CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Chairperson's announcements

4. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 July 2020, be approved and adopted.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

David Chafe, representative of TACT addressed the committee regarding agenda item 7 (b). A summary of his comments are set out under the relevant minute below.

6. **TO NOTE THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2020/21**

RESOLVED:

That the work programme for 2020/21 be noted.

7. **CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE:**

(i) **Property and Energy Update (Presentation)**

Councillor Murphy provided an update on the Council's climate emergency programme of works and the Service Lead for Communities and Wellbeing and the Sustainability Officer gave a presentation on the current and ongoing property and energy elements of the carbon neutrality action plan. The presentation was available on the Council's website [here](#).

Members asked questions and raised comments which were responded to by officers and the Cabinet member accordingly.

(ii) **Reducing the Environmental Impacts (Carbon) in Council Housing Stock (Presentation)**

Councillor Learney provided an update and the Property Services Manager gave a presentation which provided an understanding on the proposals to reduce the environmental impacts in Council housing stock in order to achieve the Council's corporate priorities in respect of carbon neutrality. The presentation was available on the Council's website [here](#).

In summary, David Chafe (on behalf of TACT) addressed the committee and reported that TACT had submitted a number of questions directly to the Property Services Manager who advised that he would contact TACT to address these points in due course.

David Chafe stated that the primary concerns from the tenant's perspective would be in relation to the level of repairs required to homes to increase energy efficiency, and any cost implications and increases to rent as a result of these works, therefore a period of tenant consultation should take place prior to any final decision being made. In response, the Property Services Manager reminded the committee of the rent caps and controls in place and that external repairs to roof insulation etc would not impact on rents.

Furthermore, he stated that internal works such as wall insulation, would be carried out whilst properties were empty in between tenancies and as measures were unlikely to change market values, this would not need to be a concern for tenants.

The Chairperson thanked David Chafe for his contribution and recognised the importance for continued tenant consultation and communication on proposals.

Members asked questions and raised comments which were responded to by officers and the Cabinet member accordingly

RESOLVED:

That the content of the presentations be received and the comments of the Committee be noted.

8. **BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN - PRESENTATION**

The committee noted that this presentation had not been notified for inclusion on the agenda within the statutory deadline. The Chairperson agreed to accept the item onto the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration to ensure the committee could consider its contents in advance of the meeting of Cabinet on 16 December 2020.

Councillor Murphy provided an update on the Council's strategic approach to produce a Biodiversity Action Plan to focus on the actions the Council has the ability to deliver directly and the Natural Environment and Recreation Manager gave a presentation on the updated Biodiversity Action Plan and the proposals for its monitoring and delivery going forward. The presentation was available on the Council's website [here](#)

Members asked questions and raised comments which were responded to by officers and the Cabinet member accordingly

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the presentation be received and the comments of the committee be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 8.20 pm

Chairperson

1.