

BUSINESS AND HOUSING POLICY COMMITTEE**1 December 2020**

Attendance:

Councillors

Weir (Chairperson)

Rutter
Bell
Brook
Craske
HiscockHorrill
Lumby
Power
ScottOthers in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Thompson (Leader and Cabinet Member for Communications), Learney (Cabinet Member for Housing and Asset Management), Ferguson (Cabinet Member for Local Economy).

[Full audio recording and video](#)

1. APOLOGIES AND DEPUTY MEMBERS

No apologies were received and all members were in attendance.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Hiscock declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of various agenda items due to his role as a county councillor.

Councillor Scott declared that he was a council tenant in respect of the Housing Revenue Account business plan and budget options item.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2020

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 September 2020 be approved and adopted.

4. TO NOTE THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2020/21

RESOLVED:

That the work programme for 2020/21 be noted.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairperson reported that both of the steering groups for the digital economy and homes for younger people task and finish groups had met. The work programme had been developed further and scoping surveys would follow. Participatory events would take place early in 2021 and it had been recognised that the work of these groups might carry forward into the next municipal year.

6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public had registered to make representations.

7. **BRIEFING ON ECONOMY AND HOUSING RESTORATION WORK - PRESENTATION**

The Service Lead: Economy and Tourism and the Corporate Head of Housing; Service Lead - Housing Operations and Community Safety; Housing Options Manager and the Strategic Housing Manager gave a presentation on the COVID19 restoration work.

Councillor Ferguson introduced the presentation on economy restoration work.

David Light on behalf of TACT commented that thanks were extended to the officers for the work that had been undertaken in difficult circumstances and that the different opportunities for people to get on the housing ladder, the new build council house programme and shared ownership were hoped to continue.

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

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

8. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET OPTIONS - PRESENTATION**

The Finance and Resources Manager - Housing gave a presentation on various aspects of the Housing Revenue Account.

Councillor Learney stated that the content of the presentation was supported.

At the invitation of the Chairperson, David Light on behalf of TACT commented that it appeared that the numbers of affordable housing could mean fewer council houses.

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

The Strategic Director: Services stated that a budget options paper would be submitted to Cabinet in December and would feed into the detailed Housing

Revenue Account budget in February 2021. The proposals would also be shared with TACT.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted

9. **HOUSING DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY - PRESENTATION**

The Service Lead - New Homes Delivery and the Housing Development and Strategy Manager gave a presentation on the key points of the emerging Development Strategy, which would be submitted to Cabinet in the new year.

The Strategic Director: Services also gave an outline of establishing a housing company with a detailed report to be taken to the next meeting of the policy committee.

David Light on behalf of TACT commented on the challenges of obtaining zero carbon in the next few years and that the council were looking at different aspects of this.

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

At the conclusion of questions and debate, it was agreed that the officers give consideration to:

- methods of reporting items from the scrutiny performance panel on development sites and the new homes plan to this policy committee, or an alternative reporting route, and;
- the holding of a member briefing to explore the issues raised by members at the meeting, including those relating to housing need assessments.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 8.50 pm

Chairperson