

COUNCIL MEETING – 26 FEBRUARY 2019

REPORT OF THE SERVICES COMMITTEE

15 January 2019

Present: Councillors Allebone (Chairman), Hallam (Vice-Chairman), Beirne, Gough, Watts and Abram.

Also present: Mrs V Jessop (Assistant Director), Mrs G Chapman (Principal Community Support Manager) and Miss E McGinlay (Electoral Services Officer).

(Cllrs Griffiths attended as an observer.)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED to note that apologies for absence were received from Cllr Bailey.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED to note that no declarations of interest were made.

3. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25 September 2018, be confirmed and signed.

4. EVENTS POLICY

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to provide members with some background to the current arrangements for public events and to seek approval and adoption of the draft events policy as at appendix A.

The principal community support manager confirmed to members that the policy was created in line with the street trading review. It is a formalisation of the current procedures and forms used by the events officer for events on council land or within the town centre.

Members discussed the report and agreed that the formalisation of current procedures was helpful to both officers and the public and should be adopted.

RESOLVED that the draft events policy and conditions, as detailed at appendix A to be report, be adopted.

5. REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ENFORCEMENT POLICY

The annexed circulated report of the director of place and strategic growth was received to propose amendments to the environmental health enforcement policy and to request permission to put it out to public consultation.

The policy had been updated to include private sector housing enforcement responsibilities. Members discussed the report and acknowledged that this was an update to the existing policy which must be consulted upon. It was

confirmed the final policy would be brought back to the next services committee in the summer.

RESOLVED that the environmental health service enforcement policy be approved for public consultation.

6. FOOD SAFETY & HEALTH & SAFETY ENFORCEMENT SERVICE PLANS

The annexed circulated report of the director of place and strategic growth was received to seek member approval on the food safety and health and safety enforcement service plans for the period 2019-20. The plans set out the council's food safety and health and safety objectives for the next year.

The production of the plans was a requirement of mandatory guidance issued to local authorities by the Food Standards Agency under the framework agreement and the Health and Safety Executive, using its powers under section 18 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Members discussed the report and attached enforcement plans and reiterated the importance of these frameworks in achieving the council's service delivery objectives.

The chairman highlighted a recent food safety case which saw the council successfully close down an unregistered food business and recoup costs of £1,437 in the process. It was agreed that the policy was necessary to ensure the council had procedures in place to comply with their statutory obligations.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the food safety enforcement service plan 2019-20 be adopted and;
- (ii) the health and safety enforcement service plan 2019-20 be adopted.

7. URGENT ACTION TAKEN – DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT

The annexed circulated report of the managing director was received to inform members of the urgent action taken, approved by the chairmen of the services and resources committees in October 2018.

The request sought to change the payment structure to Spire Homes to ensure a smooth transition of the home improvement service whilst it is brought back in-house. The service will be delivered by the council from April 2019.

The assistant director for place and strategic growth confirmed to members that the service was being brought back in-house to allow the council to have greater control of the service, and the management of the funding received by central government. She confirmed that the delivery of the service would still be dependent upon the speed of the processing of occupational health referrals by the county council.

RESOLVED that the urgent action taken be noted.

8. WARM HOMES FUNDING OPPURTUNITY

The annexed circulated report of the director was received to seek support and approval to deliver a warm homes funding scheme which will install first time gas central heating to fuel-poor homes across the borough. If supported by the services committee, a supplementary funding request of £25,000 will be submitted to the resources committee via the capital monitoring report for approval to support this bid.

The assistant director for place and strategic growth gave some background to the warm homes bid and explained the benefits it would bring to the 100-150 homes it would be able to help. She confirmed there would be a prioritisation system to determine access to the funding, and that it would be for those living in private sector housing who are in fuel poverty and in receipt of a relevant means-tested benefit and/or on a low income.

Members discussed the report and their support for the project, noting its well-timed introduction and implementation, given the worldwide need for more eco-friendly ways to live.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that support be given to the successful warm homes bid to first time gas central heating to fuel-poor homes in the borough and;
- (ii) to note that a supplementary funding request of £25,000 to support this bid be presented to resources committee for approval.

Chairman

The meeting concluded at 7.30pm.

