

Review Committee – 4 July 2017

Minutes of the meeting of the **Review Committee** held on **4 July 2017** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr J C Burton
Vice-Chairman: Cllr R Milne

Cllr N L Cooper	Cllr Mrs J R Lumley
Cllr R R Dray	Cllr Mrs C M Mason
Cllr Mrs J R Gooding	Cllr J R F Mason
Cllr B T Hazlewood	Cllr C M Stanley
Cllr N J Hookway	Cllr A L Williams

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Hoy, J E Newport and Mrs L Shaw.

SUBSTITUTES

Cllr C I Black	-	for Cllr J E Newport
Cllr M J Lucas-Gill	-	for Cllr Mrs L Shaw
Cllr T E Mountain	-	for Cllr M Hoy

OFFICERS PRESENT

M Petley	-	Principal Finance Officer
P Gowers	-	Overview and Scrutiny Officer
M Power	-	Democratic Services Officer

133 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 1 June 2017 and 13 June 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments.

1 June 2017 – Page 6 The third sentence under the first question should read: ‘Currently there were 75 applicants on the waiting list who had applied for sheltered accommodation, 41 of whom had expressed a preference for Rayleigh and, of these, none are showing a preference for FCL; many have a preference for sites closer to the town centre’.

13 June 2017 – Page 1: To note underneath the listed Substitutes, that Cllr R R Dray had been appointed as Vice-Chairman for the meeting.

Note: Cllr Mrs J R Lumley had given apologies, but no reason had been provided at the meeting. She asked that it be recorded that she had given apologies by virtue of her membership of the Sanctuary Housing in Rochford Committee and that, as she had been called as a witness for the investigation, she had been advised that she would not be able to take part in that item of business.

134 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Leader of the Green and Rochford District Residents Group stated that no whip had been applied to any of his Group Members present.

135 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW 2016/17

The Committee considered the report of the Section 151 Officer seeking the views of the Committee on the information presented in the report, prior to its presentation for approval by Full Council on 18 July 2017.

During discussion the following was noted:

- The procurement process for the Treasury Management (TM) advice contract would commence in September 2017; a list of possible organisations to be invited to submit tenders would be drawn up then. It was hoped to bring in as much competition as possible to the tender process although at present there are only two organisations, Capita Asset Services and Arlingclose, which provide a full TM service. Capita is in the process of being bought out but any company taking over will continue to provide the service currently provided by Capita.
- In terms of Member oversight of the tender process, the Treasury Management Strategy Statement is part of the budget process, which will commence in September/October 2017. In addition, a mid-year review will be undertaken by the Review Committee at its meeting on 5 December 2017. It was agreed that the Treasury Management Advisers Review Group would meet in November to review the proposed contract specification and report into the December meeting of the Review Committee.
- The TM service could not be shared with another Authority as the service is tailored to the Council's specific requirements. The Council would procure the basic TM package, as currently offered by Capita, which is appropriate for an authority of Rochford's size. Additional services could be purchased as and when needed.
- The Council had agreed that the TM strategy for 2016 would be to mitigate risk and thus continued to invest in safe funds. The Section 151 Officer had provided the Committee with options for investing in higher risk/higher return investments, including property funds, which could potentially yield 3-4%, but the Council had decided to remain with lower risk investments. The Council was currently looking at investing in a fixed rate investment fund that would yield 0.7%.
- The likelihood of movement in interest rates would be one of the areas to be considered during the 2018/19 budget process. Each month the Capita interest rate sub group meets to discuss interest rates. In the longer term there may be an increase in the base rate, although this may

not have any impact on rates for deposits.

- There was a Member request that information be provided on how the investments of those authorities that had invested in higher risk products had performed, so that it could be shown how much this Council could have earned over a specific period had it invested in higher risk products. The officer would ask other authorities if they would be willing to share this information.
- The £6,000 per annum fee paid to Capita was considered to represent value for money. The option of using banks to provide the TM service would be explored by the Principal Finance Officer as part of the procurement process; an update would be provided to the Treasury Management Task and Finish Group at their meeting in November. VAT was payable on this amount but claimed back by the Council.
- The Council's Treasury Management practices will be reviewed in December 2017 as part of the TM Strategy Statement. This would be available for consideration by the Treasury Management Task and Finish Group in November and the Review Committee in December.

Recommended to Council

- (1) That the contents of the Treasury Management Annual Review be noted.
- (2) That Rochford District Council completes a re-procurement of the Treasury Management and Investment Management services when the contract with Capita Asset Services expires. (S1510)

Resolved

That the Treasury Management Advisers Review Group meets in November to review the proposed contract specification and reports into the December meeting of the Review Committee.

136 KEY DECISIONS DOCUMENT

The Committee considered the Key Decisions Document and noted its contents.

06/17 South Essex Economic Development Needs Assessment 2017 07/17 Essex Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment

Members felt that it would be appropriate for these documents to be reviewed by the Planning Policy Sub-Committee. A Motion was moved by Cllr J R F Mason and seconded by Cllr N J Hookway that it be requested that the Planning Policy Sub-Committee considers these planning documents.

Resolved

That a request be made that the South Essex Economic Development Needs Assessment 2017 and the Essex Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment documents be reviewed by the Planning Policy Sub-Committee. (AD(P&RS))

137 WORK PLAN

(Note: Cllr Mrs J R Lumley declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as a Member of the Sanctuary in Rochford Committee.)

The Committee considered its Work Plan. The following was noted:

- The NHS at the Full Council meeting on 22 June 2017 promised ongoing engagement with the Council in respect of the Success Regime.

A Motion was moved by Cllr C I Black and seconded by Cllr Mrs C M Mason that it be recommended to Council that the NHS be invited to attend a meeting of Council to provide an update on the Success Regime and that this should take place prior to the end of the public consultation period in December 2017.

- A press release would be issued inviting members of the public to suggest areas for review by the Committee and the meeting scheduled for 9 January 2018 would be able to accommodate any such requests.
- Sanctuary Housing Association (SHA) would be invited to the meeting on 7 November 2017 to provide an interim update on their building programme, which was required to commence by 2018.
- Members requested that, in addition, SHA be asked to attend either the September or October Review Committee meetings to discuss concerns raised by residents and tenants on their maintenance and repairs programme. This would enable the Committee to get a picture of issues occurring across the District, and responses could be reported back to residents. It was noted that issues raised by residents would not be discussed by the Committee on an individual case basis.
- Individual Ward Members had attended to issues raised with them by residents and dealt directly with SHA in respect of these.
- In response to a suggestion that it might be appropriate for the Portfolio Holder for Community to discuss commonly raised issues of maintenance and repairs with SHA, the Committee felt that a more comprehensive picture of the issues experienced by residents could be gained by the Committee working as a whole.
- The Council would be asked to provide a list of complaints received and Ward Members could be asked to provide a list of issues reported to them, as well as any photographic evidence they have; this would

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provide an overall picture of the situation around the District. The issues would be collated under headings and questions prepared and provided to SHA in advance of the meeting.

- It was recognised that, where appropriate, issues could be referred also to the Council's Environmental Health or Health and Safety teams.

Recommended to Council

That the NHS be invited to attend a future meeting of Council to provide an update on the Success Regime prior to the end of the public consultation period in December 2017.

Resolved

That Sanctuary Housing Association be asked to attend either the September or October Review Committee meetings to discuss concerns raised by residents and tenants on their maintenance and repairs programme.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

Chairman

Date

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