



MINUTE OF MEETING of the HOUSING, HEALTH AND CARE COMMITTEE held within the Council Chamber, Greenfield, Alloa, FK10 2AD, on THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2013 at 10 am.

PRESENT

Councillor Les Sharp, Convenor (In the Chair)
Provost Tina Murphy, Vice Convenor
Councillor Gary Womersley (*S)
Councillor Archie Drummond
Councillor Derek Stewart
Councillor Janet Cadenhead
Councillor Ellen Forson
Councillor Kathleen Martin

IN ATTENDANCE

Garry Dallas, Director of Services to Communities
John Gillespie, Head of Community and Regulatory Services
Jane Menzies, Assistant Head of Joint Social Services
Stuart McQueen, Solicitor (Clerk to the Committee)
George Marshall, Accountant
Susan White, Housing Development and Regeneration Team Leader
Sheila Graham, Services Manager Child Care

Prior to the Committee commencing the Convenor intimated a receipt of a Motion to be considered as urgent business for today's meeting. In term of Standing Orders 11.5 the Convenor intimated that it could only be considered at today's meeting if he was satisfied that it was a matter of urgency. As the relevant Legislation was due to come into force in 12 days time the Convenor allowed the motion onto the agenda so that it could be considered by the Committee as a matter of urgency.

HHC.034 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Walter McAdam, MBE. *Councillor Gary Womersley attended as substitute for Councillor McAdam, MBE.

The Clerk advised the Committee that Councillor Womersley was present today as a substitute for Councillor Walter McAdam, MBE and was not present in his capacity as a non-voting ex-officio member. As a substitute member, Councillor Womersley was eligible to vote.

HHC.035 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

HHC.036 CONFIRM MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 JANUARY 2013

The minutes of the meeting of the Housing, Health and Care Committee held on Thursday 17 January 2013 were submitted for approval.

HHC.016 - Actions from Meetings

The Convenor sought clarification on the procedure for dealing with actions from meetings as requested by Councillor Janet Cadenhead. Having requested such clarification the Convenor advised that there will be only be recorded in minutes the decisions taken at the meeting. For an action to be recorded in the minute it will be required to be part of the original motion which is approved by Committee or is approved as an amendment and therefore becomes part of the decision of the Committee.

HHC.032 - Housing Allocations Policy Review

The final policy document was to be presented to the Committee at this meeting but the Convenor advised it will be presented to the next meeting in May 2013 and then to Council in June 2013.

Decision

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 January 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Convenor.

HHC.037 SOCIAL SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT

The report provided the financial performance of Social Services in respect of both revenue and capital spend for the financial year, 2012/13, based on activity to date up to the end of January 2013.

Motion

That the Committee notes the report and provides comment and challenge the current financial position.

Moved by Councillor Les Sharp. Seconded by Provost Tina Murphy.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to note the information set out in the report.

HHC.038 SOCIAL SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT

The report provided an update to the Committee on quarter 2 and 3 performance within Social Services. It also provided an overview of the Performance and Quality Assurance framework employed within the service.

Motion

That the Committee notes the report and provides comment and challenge as appropriate.

Moved by Councillor Les Sharp. Seconded by Provost Tina Murphy.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to note the information set out in the report.

HHC.039 CHILD CARE LONG TERM TEAM ACTION PLAN

The report provided an update to the Committee on key areas of activity and improvement in relation to the Child Care Plan.

Motion

That the Committee notes the report and provides comment and challenge as appropriate.

Moved by Councillor Les Sharp. Seconded by Provost Tina Murphy.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to note the information set out in the report.

HHC.040 CURATORS AD LITEM AND REPORTING OFFICERS FEES

The report sought approval for the fee structure to be paid to Curators ad Litem and Reporting Officers, to better align the Council's approach with other local authorities and to enhance best value.

Motion

That the Committee approve the approach of setting fixed fees for Curators ad Litem and Reporting Officer appointments, and from April 2013 this will result in the fees to be paid to Curators ad Litem and Reporting Officers as set out in 3.8.1 - 3.8.5 in the report.

Moved by Councillor Les Sharp. Seconded by Provost Tina Murphy.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to approve the approach of setting fixed fees for Curators ad Litem and Reporting Officers, and from 1 April 2013 the fees as set out in the report.

HHC.041 LOCAL AUTHORITY MORTGAGE SCHEME

The report sought formal agreement of the key approvals by Scottish Authorities prior to entering the scheme.

The Accountancy Manager advised that 2.1 should say Committee and not Council.

Motion

That the Committee:

1. adopts the model set out in this report for its approved Local Authority Mortgage Scheme.
2. provides a financial guarantee to the relevant lender in respect of the Scheme.
3. will provide a deposit to the lender in respect of the Guarantee and that deposit will be made for the full term of the Scheme.
4. approves the maximum limit for the total Guarantee to be offered under the scheme is £3m.
5. approves the maximum loan size is £97,000.
6. approves that the qualifying post codes will include all post codes within the Clackmannanshire boundary area and will exclude any that cross the boundary into a

neighbouring authority. The qualifying post codes will be provided to the lenders in schedule to the Guarantee.

7. will authorise its monitoring officer to provide the opinion letter in the required form confirming that the correct internal procedures have been followed by the Council in coming to the decision to enter into the Scheme.
8. will issue a side letter in the required form to confirm that is Monitoring Officer has been appointed in line with the Council's constitution, is authorised to opine on the matters within the Monitoring Officer's Opinion Letter and that the Council assumes responsibility for the content of and shall be liable to Lloyds TSB Bank plc as a consequence of reliance upon the Monitoring Officer's Opinion Letter.
9. note the requirement to contribute a joining fee of £3,000 to Sector Treasury Services as a contribution towards legal costs already incurred, and ongoing support in developing the scheme.

Moved by Councillor Les Sharp. Seconded by Provost Tina Murphy.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to:

1. adopt the model set out in this report for its approved Local Authority Mortgage Scheme.
2. provide a financial guarantee to the relevant lender in respect of the Scheme.
3. will provide a deposit to the lender in respect of the Guarantee and that deposit will be made for the full term of the Scheme.
4. approve the maximum limit for the total Guarantee to be offered under the scheme is £3m.
5. approve the maximum loan size is £97,000.
6. approve that the qualifying post codes will include all post codes within the Clackmannanshire boundary area and will exclude any that cross the boundary into a neighbouring authority. The qualifying post codes will be provided to the lenders in schedule to the Guarantee.
7. will authorise its monitoring officer to provide the opinion letter in the required form confirming that the correct internal procedures have been followed by the Council in coming to the decision to enter into the Scheme.
8. will issue a side letter in the required form to confirm that is Monitoring Officer has been appointed in line with the Council's constitution, is authorised to opine on the matters within the Monitoring Officer's Opinion Letter and that the Council assumes responsibility for the content of and shall be liable to Lloyds TSB Bank plc as a consequence of reliance upon the Monitoring Officer's Opinion Letter.
9. note the requirement to contribute a joining fee of £3,000 to Sector Treasury Services as a contribution towards legal costs already incurred, and ongoing support in developing the scheme.

HHC.042 REVIEW OF PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The report presented a revised Private Sector Housing Assistance Scheme, following a review of the previous scheme and to bring the policy in line with the recently approved Clackmannanshire Housing Strategy.

Motion

That the Committee:

- a. agrees the revised Private Sector Housing Assistance Scheme.
- b. notes the new arrangements for support of elderly and disabled owners (Supported Owners' Service) and that a bid to the Change Fund will be submitted.

Moved by Councillor Les Sharp. Seconded by Provost Tina Murphy.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed

- a. the revised Private Sector Housing Assistance Scheme
- b. to note the new arrangements for support of elderly and disabled owners (Supported Owners' Service) and that a bid to the Change fund will be submitted.

HHC.043 NOTICE OF MOTION IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 16 - BEDROOM TAX

A notice of motion in terms of Standing Order 16 was submitted by Councillor Gary Womersley.

Motion

"This Committee agrees to recommend to Council the following motion:

This Council opposes the bedroom tax.

This Council will do everything it can to mitigate the negative effects of bedroom tax.

In addition, this Council resolves that for a transitional period of one year, where the appropriate senior officer is satisfied that tenants who are subject to the bedroom tax are doing all they reasonably can to avoid falling into arrears, it will use all legitimate means to collect rent due, except eviction."

Moved by Councillor Gary Womersley. Seconded by Councillor Archie Drummond.

Decision

The Committee agreed unanimously to support the Motion.

Ends 12.10 pm

