

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at Worksop Town Hall**

#### **Present:**

Councillor G J Wynne (Chair)

Councillors: J W Anderton, B Barker, B A Bowles, R B Carrington-Wilde, I Jones, J W Ogle, J Scott, J C Shephard, Mrs A Simpson and C Wanless.

Officers: G Blenkinsop, L Dore, M Hill, M Ladyman, R Theakstone, J Walker, J Whalley.

Also present: Councillor H M Brand

Others present: B Coleman – A1 Housing (Bassetlaw) Ltd

Standards Committee Members: Mr B Letherland

#### **65. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Rafferty and F Hart (Select Panel Chairman).

#### **66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

##### **(a) Members**

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

##### **(b) Officers**

There were no declarations of interest by officers.

#### **67. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011 be approved.

#### **68. MINUTES FOR ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION**

A written response to a query regarding Minute No 50(a) – Empty Homes Strategy (Key Decision No 310) had not yet been received by Members.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The Minutes for Action and Implementation Sheet be received.
2. The Committee Administrator arrange for the requested written response to be forwarded to Members.

#### 69. OUTSTANDING MINUTES LIST

**RESOLVED** that the Outstanding Minutes List be received.

#### 70. BASSETLAW DISTRICT COUNCIL'S RECYCLING ADVISOR

Members received a presentation from the Council's Recycling Advisor who has been in post for just over a year. The slides detailed his job remit and provided details of how he is working to achieve targets through presentations to schools and community groups along with doorstep visits to householders.

Members asked questions regarding: waste in the town centres following Friday and Saturday night trading, compost bins, benchmarking against other authorities, access into schools, recycling rates, assessment of contamination and recycling pods for flats.

The Chairman thanked the Recycling Advisor for his presentation and also the Environmental Development Officer for her assistance in responding to Member questions.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The presentation be received.
2. A list of schools still to be visited by the Recycling Advisor be circulated to Committee Members.

#### **SECTION A – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PUBLIC**

#### 71. CHANGE OF AGENDA ORDER

The Chairman advised that the Agenda order would change so that item number 12 would be considered next.

#### **Other Decisions**

#### 72. REPORT(S) OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

##### (a) Progress Report: Decent Homes Standard, the Repairs Policy and Complaints Process

The Managing Director of A1 Housing (Bassetlaw) Ltd provided an update on the progress made in delivering the recommendations following a scrutiny review by Select Panel 4 into the Decent Homes Standard, the Repairs Policy and the Complaints Process and also the Audit Commission's Best Value recommendations.

He commented individually on the Best Value and Scrutiny Panel recommendations as included in appendices to the report advising which had been completed and which were still in progress. Most recommendations had been completed with others on target or progressing. There were no recommendations which had not been achieved.

He also informed the Committee that A1 Housing (Bassetlaw) Ltd was one of the few arms length management organisations in the country permitted to spend from next year's funding allocation. While this would mean less the following financial year, it meant an extra £1m to spend on works this financial year and would benefit tenants who would see Decent Homes work completed quicker.

Members asked questions regarding: tenant satisfaction monitoring, renewable energy sources, reward for tenants who improve/maintain their house, boundary fencing, how properties were selected for photovoltaic panels and the removal of improvement installations by a previous tenant. Their questions were responded to by the Managing Director and the Council's Director of Community Services.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### **Key Decisions**

#### **73. KEY DECISIONS OF CABINET – 4<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2011**

None.

### **Other Decisions**

#### **74. WAIVE OF CALL-IN**

None.

#### **75. REFERRAL(S) FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

#### **76. POSSIBLE CALL-IN OF DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET – 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER OR BY CABINET MEMBERS**

None.

#### **77. REPORT(S) OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

##### **(a) Forward Plan – October 2011 to January 2012**

In response to a question, the Head of Finance and Property confirmed that, if approved in time, the new Corporate Plan will tie in with future reports 'Medium Term Financial Plan 2012/13 to 2014/15 (Key Decision 294) and 'Budget Monitoring and Capital Programme update to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011' (Key Decision 295).

**RESOLVED** that the Forward Plan for the period October 2011 to January 2012 be noted.

#### **78. REPORT(S) OF THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES**

##### **(a) Corporate Procurement Team Updated Work Programme**

The Head of Finance and Property provided an update on the progress made on procurement activities since the Select Panel 3 report to Cabinet in June 2010.

Initially a working group had been established to develop the service and consider efficiencies. This report detailed new arrangements including: an updated Corporate Procurement Policy and Strategy, new Contract Procedure Rules, information on processing systems and the recent Cabinet approval of a new structure for the procurement team. Information was also provided on a review of current suppliers, projects which have been completed and projects under review or currently out to tender.

An appendix gave details of where savings have already been made on renewal of various existing contracts.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The report be noted.
2. Thanks be recorded for the work undertaken by the procurement team for savings achieved to date.

## 79. REPORT(S) OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

### (a) Overview and Scrutiny Committee Programme 2011/12

The Committee were presented with an overview of the meeting programme for 2011/12. Members were invited to discuss any topics they consider should be added to the programme with either the Chairman or the Corporate Development and Policy Manager.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

### (b) Post Scrutiny Monitoring of Land and Buildings in Disrepair (including Empty Homes)

The Director of Community Services presented a progress report on actions arising from the scrutiny review by Select Panel 2 in 2009/10 of Land and Buildings in Disrepair including Empty Homes. The review considered how land and buildings in disrepair are tackled by the Council and partners, what action the Council could take to address these issues and to look at how empty homes might be brought back into use.

The review had made eleven recommendations and the report noted key achievements. All but one of the recommendations had been completed and this last one is partially complete.

The Director of Community Services highlighted some of the properties and derelict land where improvements had been made as a result of the review. He added that it was now probably appropriate to consider the way forward so that a new list of land/properties requiring action is created.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## 80. SELECT PANEL REPORTS

### (a) Scrutiny Reviews 2011/12: Scrutiny Select Panels and Health Panel Update

The Corporate Development and Policy Manager advised that both Panels were working well and that with reference to the 'Choice Based Lettings and Local Lettings' review there were additional points the Panel were to ask A1 Housing (Bassetlaw) Ltd to look at. Unfortunately the Chairman of the Panel had been unable to attend to provide an update.

The Chairman of the Health Panel, currently reviewing 'The Future of Services at Bassetlaw District General Hospital' provided an update on its work so far. Having initially determined the scope of the project, a number of Extraordinary meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been arranged so that the public could also be involved in the process of providing questions to and hearing responses from witnesses.

The Chairman expressed his gratitude to Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and to Bassetlaw and Doncaster PCT for engaging in the process. He also expressed thanks to officers for their help and support.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The report be noted.
2. Thanks be recorded for the support of the Corporate Development and Policy Manager and the Policy and Scrutiny Officer for arranging the Extraordinary Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings and assisting the Health Panel with its review.

**81. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, and after considering the public interest test as set out by the officer in the body of the report, Members agreed that the following items of business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 2 and 3 and, therefore, in accordance with Section 100A of the Act, the press and public be excluded from the meeting:

Agenda Item No 16: Key Decisions of Cabinet – 4th October 2011 - Paragraph 2

**SECTION B - ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION IN PRIVATE**

**Key Decisions**

**82. KEY DECISIONS OF CABINET – 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011**

- (a) Minute No 76(a) – Supported Housing Warden and Alarm Service (Key Decision No 313)

**RESOLVED** that Minute No 76(a) of the Cabinet Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011 be endorsed.

**Other Decisions**

**83. WAIVE OF CALL IN**

None.

**84. POSSIBLE CALL IN OF DECISIONS MADE BY CABINET 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2011 OR BY CABINET MEMBERS**

None.

**85. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT**

As there was no other business to be discussed, the Chairman closed the meeting.