

HOUSING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Health Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 23 March 2011 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors P Barrett, A Wylie, B Band, J Flynn, A Gaunt, K Howie, E Maclachlan, M Roberts, W Robertson, D Scott, A Stewart (substituting for C Shiers), H Stewart; Mr A Boyd and Mrs E Muir (Tenants' and Residents' Federation).

In attendance: D Burke, Executive Director (Housing and Community Care); J Walker, C Crawford, J Gilruth, P Henderson, S Burt, S Rankin and L Ross (all Housing and Community Care); C Flynn and P Frazer (both Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillor I Campbell and Councillor Shiers.

Councillor P Barrett, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener led discussion for Articles 159, 161 and 163, the Vice-Convener for Articles 160, 162 and 164.

157. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made under the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

158. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Health Committee of 2 February 2011 (Arts. 52-59) was submitted, approved as a correct record, and authorised for signature.

159. REPORT ON COMPLETION OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY BEST VALUE REVIEW

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (11/135) outlining: (1) completion of the Best Value Review of Learning Disabilities Services Implementation Plan; (2) the significant improvements in services for adults with Learning Disabilities and their carers; (3) progress in dealing with needs identified in consultation with service users; (4) the findings of an independent review of Perth and Kinross's Learning Disability Service; and (5) proposals for the development of a new Charter for adults with Learning Disabilities.

The Committee heard a presentation by Paul Henderson, Service Manager, Housing and Community Care on the Completion of the Learning Disability Best Value Review.

Resolved:

- (i) Completion of the Learning Disability Best Value Review be agreed.

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- (ii) Continuation of further developments within Learning Disability Services to build on the work outlined in section 5 of report 11/135 be agreed.

160. HOUSING WITH CARE – SHELTERED HOUSING REVIEW

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (11/136) outlining progress on the Sheltered Housing Review.

Resolved:

- (i) The review process for Perth and Kinross Council sheltered housing, as set out in Section 3 of report 11/136, be approved.
- (ii) Instruct the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) to submit a review findings report to a future Committee during 2011.

161. BEST VALUE REVIEW OF PERTH AND KINROSS TENANTS' AND RESIDENTS' FEDERATION

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (11/137) outlining the findings of the Best Value Review of the Perth and Kinross Tenants' and Residents' Federation ('The Federation').

The Convener expressed his thanks to office bearers of the Federation, past and present, for the contribution they had made to the work of the Perth and Kinross Tenants' and Residents' Federation.

Resolved:

- (i) The key recommendations of the Best Value Review be accepted.
- (ii) It was agreed that the key recommendations be included in the action plan of the Perth and Kinross Council Tenant Participation Strategy 2010-13.
- (iii) Instruct the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) to submit progress reports on key recommendations included in the Perth and Kinross Council Tenant Participation Strategy to Committee on a regular basis.
- (iv) It was agreed that any future funding requirements and support, to local tenant and resident groups, be managed by Housing and Community Care staff.

162. HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (11/138) outlining: (1) the main features of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 and its implications for Perth and Kinross Council; and (2) proposals for a further report to Committee on 'Pressured Area Status'.

Resolved:

- (i) The content of the report and the implications for Perth and Kinross Council as set out in Section 3 of report 11/138 be noted.
- (ii) Instruct the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) to submit a further report to Committee on proposals for 'Pressured Area Status'.

163. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES CHARGING STATEMENT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (11/139) seeking approval for Housing and Community Care Services Charging Statement.

The Convener reported that the Council proposed to cease offering a discount, from April 2011, on the assessed charge to employed people in temporary accommodation. This would affect approximately 14% of the people currently in temporary accommodation. To minimise the financial impact of the proposed change on the people affected Council staff would offer advice on income and benefits maximisation and support people to access more appropriate rented accommodation.

Resolved:

- (i) The Charging Statement outlined in Appendix 1 to report 11/139 be approved.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) also gave a commitment to come back to Committee with a report on rent and service charge arrears generally and the actions taken to minimise and address accumulated debt to the Service.

164. WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INDEPENDENT CARE SECTOR

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (11/140) (1) outlining progress made in partnership working with the local independent care sector providers in care homes, care at home and NHS Tayside; and (2) seeking instruction for the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) to continue to develop joint working relationships with the independent sector to progress the 'Reshaping Care for Older People' agenda.

COUNCILLOR BAND LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

Resolved:

- (i) The content of the report be noted.
- (ii) Instruct the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) to continue to develop joint working relationships with the independent sector to progress the 'Reshaping Care for Older People' agenda.

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