

## **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 29 May 2013 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors D Doogan, K Howie, H Anderson, P Barrett, I Campbell, D Cuthbert, J Flynn, E Maclachlan, D Melloy, W Wilson (substituting for W Robertson), M Roberts (substituting for H Stewart), G Walker, and M Williamson.

In attendance: D Burke, Executive Director (Housing and Community Care); J Beverley, L Brady, L Cooper, J Cruickshank, R Freeman, J Gilruth, M Smith, A Taylor, and M Weir (all Housing and Community Care); I Butt (Environment Service A Block, S Rattray, S Watson, C Flynn and P Frazer (all Chief Executive's Service).);

Also in attendance: D McAvoy (Scottish and Southern Energy)

Apologies: Councillors W Robertson and H Stewart.

Councillor D Doogan, Convener, Presiding.

The Convener led discussion for Articles 312, 313, 314 and 315, the Vice-Convener for Articles 310 and 311.

### **308. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

### **309. MINUTE**

The minute of meeting of the Housing and Health Committee of 13 March 2013 (Arts. 146-158) was submitted, approved as a correct record, and authorised for signature.

### **310. HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKS**

There was submitted report by the Head of Housing and Community Care (13/251) (1) providing a summary of the progress of energy efficiency measures to households in Perth and Kinross during 2012/13; (2) outlining proposals for continuing with further energy saving initiatives in 2013/2014; and (3) seeking homologation of actions already taken to help secure funding for these schemes.

The Committee also heard a presentation by D McAvoy, Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) on Home Efficiency Works.

*D MCAVOY LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.*

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL  
HOUSING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE  
29 MAY 2013

**Resolved:**

- (i) Actions taken to secure ECO funding from SSE for the insulation of 159 no fines concrete houses in Hillyland, Perth be homologated.
- (ii) Actions already taken to submit funding applications for the Scottish Government's new Home Energy Efficiency Programme Scotland – Area Based Schemes, be noted.
- (iii) Remit the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) to research the feasibility of installing Solar Photovoltaic panels to the roofs of selected Council houses, utilising feed-in tariff payments as a method of funding the scheme and bring forward detailed proposals to a future meeting of the Housing and Health Committee.

**311. SCOTTISH WELFARE FUND**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (13/252) (1) providing key information regarding the new Scottish Welfare Fund; and (2) requesting authorisation for administration of this new scheme to be undertaken within the Revenues and Benefits Service and Housing and Community Care.

**Resolved:**

- (i) Key issues relating to the new duties of administration of the Scottish Welfare Fund be noted.
- (ii) The Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) be instructed to submit a further report on the administration of the Scottish Welfare Fund, during the current financial year, to a future meeting of the Housing and Health Committee.

**312. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2013/14 AND ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2012/13**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (13/253) seeking approval of the Housing and Community Care Business Management and Improvement Plan for 2013/14 (attached as Appendix 1) and the Annual Performance Report for 2012/13 (attached as Appendix 2).

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Business Management and Improvement Plan 2013/14 and the Annual Performance Report 2012/13 for Housing and Community Care, pertaining to the Housing and Health Committee's area of responsibility, as appended to Report 13/253, be approved.
- (ii) It be noted that Report 13/253 would be considered by the Community Safety Committee on 5 June 2013 and also the Scrutiny Committee on 12 June 2013 for scrutiny and comment as appropriate.

### **313. DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (13/254) clarifying the administration process and policy intent relating to Discretionary Housing Payments locally for 2013/14 onwards.

**Resolved:**

- (i) Discretionary Payments Fund guidance for Perth and Kinross, appended as Appendix 1 to Report 13/254, be approved
- (ii) Amendments to the eligibility arrangements for Discretionary Housing Payments, be noted.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) be instructed to submit a report on the uptake and administration of Discretionary Payments during the current financial year, to a future meeting of the Housing and Health Committee.

### **314. SIZE CRITERIA IN THE SOCIAL RENTED SECTOR**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (13/255) (1) outlining key aspects of the Size Criteria in the Social Rented Sector; (2) highlighting action taken to date by Perth and Kinross Council in respect of this change under the Welfare Reform Act 2013; (3) providing details of the pro-active and preventative approach being taken to tackle the issues which may arise; (4) and highlighting any potential adverse impacts of the changes.

**Resolved:**

- (i) Key issues relating to the Size Criteria changes be noted.
- (ii) The pro-active and preventative approach of Perth and Kinross Council to minimising/mitigating the impact of these changes on our communities be endorsed.

### **315. BRINGING PRIVATE SECTOR EMPTY HOMES AND VACANT PROPERTIES BACK INTO USE**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) and Executive Director (The Environment Service) (13/256) providing an update on the work across the Council to bring empty and vacant properties within the private sector back into residential or commercial use.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The content of Report 13/256 be noted.
- (ii) It be noted that further progress reports on the Empty Homes and Vacant Properties initiatives would be submitted to future meetings of the Housing and Health Committee.

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