

ITEM 4

Time Commenced – 6.00 pm
Time Finished – 6.48 pm

Cost of Living Overview and Scrutiny Board

21 July 2014

Present: Councillor Dhindsa (Chair)
Councillors Harwood, A Holmes, Bayliss, Stanton and Tittley

01/14 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

02/14 Late Items

There were no late items.

03/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/14 Forward Plan published 8 July 2014

The board discussed the Forward Plan which was published on 8 July 2014.

Resolved to:

- 1. add the Revision of Derby City Council Tenancy Conditions for Housing Tenants (63/13) to the work programme and also**
- 2. add the Private Sector – Final Offer Policy (7/14) to the work programme**

For both of the above mentioned items to be presented to the Cost of Living Board before Council Cabinet if meeting scheduling allows.

05/15 Development of Derby's New Homelessness Strategy

This Board considered a report presented on behalf of the Strategic Director of Adults, Health and Housing which informed members of the Cost of Living Board of the Council's intention to develop and consult on a new Homelessness Strategy for the city. Following the Homelessness Topic Review carried out by the Planning, Housing and Leisure Board in 2013, the Cabinet Member for Housing, Finance and Welfare and Strategic Director of Adults, Health and Housing were both keen to

ensure that the Board with responsibility for housing is kept informed and that members had an opportunity to have an input into the developing strategy.

Derby's last Homelessness Strategy was written in 2010 and is now ready for renewal and review. As part of the process, wide spanning consultation is needed to ensure that the views of all stakeholders are taken into account.

Following the consultation process a draft version of the new Homelessness Strategy will be brought back to the September 2014 meeting of the Cost of Living Board for further comment.

Members were informed that the Homelessness Strategy would be formed following a proposed three stage consultation process, the first of which was undertaken as a consultation event on 1 July 2014, aimed at service providers. The second stage of the event would be at Milestone House, Green Lane, Derby aimed at service users and the third event if the outcomes of the first and second consultations deemed it necessary to consult the service user's families.

A member requested that the Homelessness Strategy 2010 was circulated so the Cost of Living Board had a starting point to work from. The new strategy is going to be launched in either December 2014 or January 2015.

Resolved to note the report and also noted that the further developed report would be presented at a future Cost of Living Board meeting.

06/14 Work Programme and Terms of Reference

The Cost of Living Board received a report presented on behalf of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods which gave them with a brief overview of the scrutiny process and also gave them opportunity to study its Terms of Reference and Remit for the forthcoming municipal year and the relevant rules of the constitution (see Appendix 2).

Members of the Board were also updated on the Housing, Finance and Welfare priorities for 2014/15. The Director for Adults, Health and Housing gave a presentation which included an overview of:

- Key Work Areas
- Key Issues
- Forthcoming Key Decisions
- Challenges and Pressures

The Director of Customer Management delivered supplementary information mainly focusing on the changes in the administration of the benefits system to assist the Board in the setting of their work programmes for 2014/2015.

Councillor Tittley recommended that Audit and Accounts Committee's Work Programme for 2014/2015 be made available to the Cost of Living Board members

as it was considered that Audit and Accounts items may have an impact on the Cost of Living Board remit.

After discussion and further consultation with Board members, Strategic Directors and the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board a work programme was confirmed and a topic review decided upon.

Resolved to:

- 1) agree to the Cost of Living Board Draft Work programme including suggested topics identified during the meeting.**
- 2) Requested that the impact of Universal Credit be added to the work programme**
- 3) Requested that Affordable Housing be adopted as the title of topic review.**

MINUTES END