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4 September 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

COMMUNITY HOUSING AND HEALTH (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE

A meeting of the above mentioned Committee has been arranged to take place on **TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2017** at **6.00 p.m.** in the **COMMITTEE ROOM**, District Council House, Lichfield to consider the following business.

Yours faithfully



Neil Turner BSc (Hons) MSc
Director of Transformation & Resources

To: **Members of Community Housing and Health (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee:**

Councillors Leytham (Chairman), Miss Shepherd (Vice-Chairman), Mrs Evans (Vice-Chairman), Bamborough, Mrs Boyle, Mrs Constable, Hoult, Humphreys, Mosson, O'Hagan and Ray



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AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on the 30th May 2017 (copy attached)
4. Work Programme (copy attached)
5. Energy Efficiency and Flexible Eligibility (copy attached)
6. Standing Items
 - a) Lichfield District Health Provision (verbal report)
 - b) Staffordshire Health Select Committee (verbal report)

Briefing Papers:

End of Year Performance Overview 2016/17 - Regulatory Services, Housing and Wellbeing

**COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND HEALTH
(OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE**

30 MAY 2017

PRESENT:

Councillors Leytham (Chairman), (Mrs Evans (Vice-Chairman), Miss Shepherd (Vice-Chairman), Bamborough, Mrs Boyle, Mrs Constable, Houlton, Humphreys, O'Hagan, Ray, and Mrs Tranter.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mosson

Councillor Rayner also attended

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor O'Hagan declared a non-pecuniary interest he was currently employed by the Southern Staffordshire and Shropshire Mental Health Service.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2017 were taken as read, and approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2017 be approved as a correct record

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members were reminded of the Terms of Reference for the Community, Housing and Health (Overview & Scrutiny) Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN

Members considered the Work Programme and Forward Plan. As it was the first meeting of the municipal year, the Regulatory Services, Housing & Wellbeing Annual Action Plan was included as to aid the formulation of the work programme.

It was agreed that Housing was an area that needed to be considered especially affordable housing and the right type of dwellings to cater for the elderly and vulnerable. It was discussed that more bungalows at an affordable price would be advantageous as it would free up resources on disabled adaptations. DFG's were discussed further and the briefing note sent was noted. It was agreed that as the service was already in the process of being reviewed on a county wide basis, there was little value to an O&S input at this stage although briefing notes would continue. A Member Task Group consisting of Councillors Mrs Boyle, Mrs Evans and Ray was created to look into housing matters as part of the Ensuring a safe, accessible housing stock ambition.

It was noted that Public Space Protection Orders and an Environmental Crime Strategy was planned to be introduced and approved by March 2018 and it was suggested that the Committee could aid in the development of these.

The Street Trading Policy was discussed and it was noted that the Regulatory & Licensing Committee already had a Member Task Group organised. It was also noted that there were Members of the O&S Committee that were also Members of the Regulatory & Licensing Committee and so could give an input from both angles.

Finally it was agreed that the Committee would have an involvement in the development of the Wellbeing Policy which would be commencing in early 2018. It was agreed that wellbeing was a high priority for the District Council and how its work impacts on it.

RESOLVED: That the Work Programme and Forward Plan be noted and updated as agreed.

FUNDING THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

The Committee welcomed Councillor Rayner as the Chairman of the Funding the Community and Voluntary Sector Member Task Group. He reported that the group had worked well and thanked Members and Officers for their time and input. He then reported that the group had considered the current funding arrangements and whether the process needed changing. It was noted that it was found that some areas like sports were getting more funding allocated than homelessness as there were more applications for that area and so to tackle this, considered whether specific areas were actually needed or broader themes from the Strategic Plan would give more freedom to distribute funding.

The Locality Commissioning Board was discussed and it was noted that as the Council was the administrating body, it was resource intensive however the Task Group reported that with this in mind and knowing that many partners had withdrawn, there was still some merit to having it. The Task Group also concluded that the current £177k per year level of funding remained appropriate.

It was agreed that the Member Task Group proposals should be recommended to Cabinet. It was also agreed that the Task Group should continue to monitor and manage the funding process.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to Cabinet that

- (1) Funding be maintained at £177k;
- (2) Funding be aligned to the Strategic Plan priority Healthy & Safe Communities and Strategic Plan outcomes; and
- (3) Maintain some partner contribution to the process.

STANDING ITEMS

BURNTWOOD HEALTH CENTRES

The Committee noted that regarding Greenwood House, that the outline business case which was prepared by Staffordshire County Council and listed as the CCG bid was successful and had passed through stage two of four and was now listed on the NHS website as a successful New Build Project to be funded through the ETTF. It was then reported that the CCG had formally commissioned the production of a full

business case which would form the basis of Stage Three – Due Diligence. It was then reported that an experienced consultant had been appointed to undertake this work and if Stage Four – Approval was passed, construction would commence during the 2018/19 financial year subject to Planning Approval.

Members welcomed the update and noted that progress was being made even if at a very slow pace. There were concerns however that there were not enough GP's to serve the facility or the District on a whole.

RESOLVED: That the information received be noted.

STAFFORDSHIRE HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Committee reported that there had not been a meeting of the Select Committee as yet due to the County Elections.

RESOLVED: That the information received be noted.

(The Meeting Closed at 7.15pm)

CHAIRMAN

COMMUNITY, HOUSING AND HEALTH (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY) COMMITTEE DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2017-18 (Version 2)

Item	30 May	12 Sep	11 Jan	26 Mar	Details	Link to CHH Top 10	Officer	Member Lead
Policy Development								
Terms of reference	✓				To remind the Committee of the terms of reference and suggest any amendments		CLL	N/A
General Health Service Review (standing item)	✓	✓	✓	✓	To update Members on GP Provision in the District and proposals emerging for Samuel Johnson and Sir Robert Peel Hospitals	N/A	GD	CG
Wellbeing Policy					Task Group to aid the formulation of a Wellbeing Policy		GD	
Feedback from Staffordshire Health Select Committee (standing item)	✓	✓	✓	✓	The Chairman of the Committee is the LDC representative on the County Council's Health Select Committee and will feed back on any items of relevance to Lichfield District residents. Councillor David Smith is the County Councillor representative on the Select Committee with a remit to feedback to the local Health Panel / Committee	N/A	GD	DL / DS
Funding the community and voluntary sector					Task Group to monitor the process			
Disabled Facilities Grants	✓				Briefing Paper - Update on performance	'Deliver a programme of disabled facilities grants to help people remain living safely at home' is a Directorate top 10 priority	GD	CG
Public Space Protection Orders and an Environmental Crime Strategy					Briefing Paper from progress made by the Regulatory & Licensing Committee		GD	
Statement of Intent for Flexible Eligibility		✓					GD	

Energy Efficiency and Flexible Eligibility

Report of Councillor Doug Pullen, Cabinet Member for Housing and Health

Date:	12 th September 2017
Agenda Item:	5
Contact Officer:	Gareth Davies/Lucy Robinson
Tel Number:	01543 308741/308710
Email:	gareth.davies@lichfielddc.gov.uk lucy.robinson@lichfielddc.gov.uk
Key Decision?	YES
Local Ward Members	All, as applies to the whole of Lichfield district.



Community, Housing and Health (Overview & Scrutiny) Committee

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This Flexible Eligibility Statement of Intent (SOI) has been prepared in response to recent changes to one of the Government's domestic energy efficiency grant schemes. These changes permit local authorities to set their own eligibility criteria for a segment of a fund, called ECO2t Help to Heat, which will enable qualifying households across the district to access additional investment and support for energy efficiency measures.
- 1.2 It sets out how we intend to identify and target households on a low income, in fuel poverty or have one or more occupants with a health condition exacerbated by living in a cold home. This is a voluntary scheme for local authorities: non participation will exclude certain vulnerable households from accessing this element of energy efficiency funding assistance.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members consider and comment on the proposed Statement of Intent.
- 2.2 That authority is delegated to the Cabinet Member and Director of Place and Community to agree and sign the final version of the Statement of Intent.

3. Background

- 3.1 In 2013 central government introduced a scheme called ECO (Energy Company Obligation) which has required the larger 'obligated' energy suppliers to provide grant funding assistance towards the installation of energy efficient measures to households across the UK. Households have needed to meet qualifying criteria – called Affordable Warmth criteria – in order to benefit from this fund, which includes certain 'passport' benefits, occupant age and location.
- 3.2 ECO funding has enabled many households within the district to have free or subsidised loft and cavity wall insulation and new boilers, thereby improving energy efficiency, reducing bills and improving comfort and health outcomes. However, to-date the qualifying criteria have prevented many vulnerable households from benefitting from this scheme, as they do not qualify for certain benefits.
- 3.3 The latest changes to the scheme, now called ECO2t Help to Heat, came into effect from April 2017. A key change is the introduction of a component called Flexible Eligibility (FE) which permits local authorities to set their own qualifying criteria for a 10% portion of the overall ECO fund. This will enable funding for energy efficiency measures to be awarded to vulnerable, low income households that would otherwise be ineligible for assistance under the normal Affordable Warmth criteria. At the time of writing, supported measures will include: loft and cavity wall insulation; solid wall insulation; LPG boilers and heating systems, and; oil boilers and heating systems.

- 3.4 Participation in FE is voluntary. Councils intending to participate must produce, approve and publish a statement of intent. LDC's SOI has been drafted to fully comply with the associated guidance document from the Government's Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (Link: [BEIS, Energy Company Obligation - Flexible Eligibility, Guidance for local authorities](#)).
- 3.5 BEIS and Ofgem have stated that FE is being trialed from April 2017 until September 2018. If sufficient local authorities participate and the scheme is deemed to be a success then the FE component will be incorporated as a permanent feature of ECO, giving councils greater control in accessing funds for their area. If the Government considers FE to have been ineffective, for example through poor participation and take-up, then ECO will revert back to its usual format, excluding certain vulnerable groups.
- 3.6 Our Strategic Plan 2016-2020 has identified 'healthy and safe communities' as one of its priorities and specifies an intention to increase the number of people who are active, healthy and living independently at home. A key activity towards achieving this goal is the Council's Warmer Homes Greener District (WHGD) initiative. WHGD includes an advice line to provide the district's residents with reliable energy efficiency advice and offers a referral service for households looking to benefit from energy efficiency grant and incentive schemes. All advice and referrals regarding this scheme and the proposed SOI will be provided through the WHGD service.

Alternative Options	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To do nothing on Flexible Eligibility and not adopt a Statement of Intent 2. Adopt different criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) to relax the proposed eligibility criteria to include some non-vulnerable households. It may be difficult to justify significant changes, if challenged, as the focus should be for households meeting the definition of vulnerability as set out in the BEIS guidance ii) to make the proposed eligibility criteria more restrictive in order to reduce the number of vulnerable households who may qualify for assistance
Consultation	Internally with officers, Marches Energy Agency, Beat the Cold and other Staffordshire local authorities (including the County Council)
Financial Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residents benefit from ECO2t funding 2. No additional financial implications as this is covered in the Council's Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Marches Energy Agency and Beat the Cold to provide our WHGD advice line.
Contribution to the Delivery of the Strategic Plan	The Strategic Plan 2016-2020 sets out what we want to achieve in four main themes. Flexible eligibility will contribute to the theme of 'Healthy and safe communities' by helping people to live independently at home and by contributing to more active and healthy lifestyles.
Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications	Improves current inequality issues by enabling an increased number of vulnerable, low income households access to a fund who wouldn't be eligible under normal scheme rules.
Crime & Safety Issues	None identified

RISK	Risk Description	How We Manage It	Severity of Risk (RAG)
A	We do not issue an SOI. Reputational risk: some identified vulnerable households are prevented from accessing potential funding for measures. ECO2t funding is invested in other authority areas.	Our SLA continues as normal – i.e. through WHGD LDC continues to provide its residents with high quality energy efficiency advice and referrals to existing and emerging incentive/grant schemes, excluding FE	Green
B	Our qualifying criteria do not adequately target the intended audience. Some vulnerable households may miss out on funding, and/or non-vulnerable households found to be eligible.	Review, update and publish an amended SOI with revised qualifying criteria	Green
C	Little or no interest/take-up amongst residents.	We will monitor activity and interest on a monthly basis. In the event that public interest is low we will review and enhance promotional activity	Green

Background documents:

Relevant web links:

[Lichfield District Housing Strategy 2013-2017](#)

[Lichfield District Council Strategic Plan 2016-2020](#)

[BEIS, Energy Company Obligation - Flexible Eligibility, Guidance for local authorities](#)