

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.

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.

