

MINUTE of MEETING of the SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 4 FEBRUARY 2020.

Present – Councillors George Paul (Chair), Andrew McGuire, Alison Adamson, Frank Anderson, Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Peter Heggie, John McGinty

In Attendance: - Jessie Duncan, Alison Kerr, David Rintoul, Tenants Panel Representatives, John Sives, West Lothian Joint Forum of Community Council's representative

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

2. MINUTE

The panel confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 10 December 2020 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

Councillor McGinty noted that in relation to minute item 5, information asked for in relation to the Contact Assessment Model and solvency rates, had not been received and requested that officers follow this up with Police Scotland.

3. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON HOUSING TO 2040

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing the proposed response to the Scottish Government's consultation on their draft housing vision and consultation paper "Housing to 2040: Consultation on outline policy options". The closing date for responses to the consultation document was 28 February 2020.

The report recommended that the panel:

1. Note the council's response as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.
2. Note that a report would be submitted to Council Executive on 25 February 2020 seeking approval to submit the response to Scottish Government by 28 February 2020.

Decision

To note the contents of the report and agreed that the report and its recommendations be forwarded to Council Executive on 25 February 2020 for approval.

4. PROPERTY TURNOVER OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2019

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing details of the property turnover for the third quarter (October to December) of 2019/20

The report recommended that the panel note the current levels of activity relating to property turnover for the third quarter of 2019/20 and in particular:

1. Note a decrease in property lets compared to the same period last year;
2. Note that of the 47 communities in West Lothian, five had only one mainstream property to let and 15 had none; and
3. 57% of lets were allocation to people who were homeless.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND RENT LEVEL 2020/21 TO 2022/23

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive providing an update on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) financial plan for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23, and the proposed HRA budget, rent and service charges for 2020/21.

The report recommended that the panel:

1. Note the proposed 3% rent strategy for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23, encompassing HRA properties and garages, which would fund service needs and the Housing Capital investment programme;
2. Notes the proposed 3% rent strategy for Sheltered Housing and Homelessness properties, as well as related service and support charges, for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23; and
3. Notes the proposed rent increase of 3% in 2020/21 and the updated 2020/21 to 2022/23 HRA budget.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. HOUSING CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2020/21 TO 2022/23

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive providing an update on the Housing Capital Investment Programme for 2020/21 to 2022/23 and the proposed exemption for works under the terms of the Best Value Framework.

The report recommended that the panel:

1. Notes the proposed updated 2020/21 to 2022/23 Housing Capital Investment Programme and related funding as detailed in the report; and
2. Notes the updated exemptions for works under the terms of the Best Value Framework, as outlined in section D6 of the report.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report.

### 7. LOCAL FIRE AND RESCUE PLAN REVIEW 2020

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services providing the proposed response to the Scottish Fire and Rescue service questionnaire relating to the Local Fire and Rescue Plan Review 2020.

The report recommended that the panel

1. Note the council's proposed response as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and
2. That a response would be submitted to Council Executive on 25 February 2020 seeking approval to submit the response to the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the report and agreed that the report and its recommendations are forwarded to the Council Executive on 25 February 2020 for approval.

### 8. WORKPLAN

The Panel considered a list of items that would form the basis of the panel's work over the coming months.

#### Decision

To note the contents of the workplan.