

MINUTE of MEETING of the SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within WEBEX VIRTUAL MEETING ROOM, on 9 FEBRUARY 2021.

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

In Attendance – David Rintoul, Tenants Panel, Donald Stavert, Joint Forum of Community Councils, Graeme Struthers, Depute Chief Executive, Ann Marie Carr, Head of Housing, Customer and Building Services, Marjorie Mackie, West Lothian Council, Katy McBride, West Lothian Council, Pamela Bell, West Lothian Council, Alison Smith, West Lothian Council

Apologies – Alison Kerr, Tenants Panel, John Sives, Joint Forum of Community Councils.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item 5 - Housing Capital Investment Programme 2021/22 to 2022/23 and Agenda Item 6 - Housing Revenue Account Budget 2021/22 to 2022/23 and Rent Level 2021/22 – Councillor Andrew McGuire declared an interest in that he was a paid employee of Dunedin Canmore Housing Association, but did not feel this would preclude him from taking part in these two items of business.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair changed the order of business to consider agenda item 6 first followed by agenda items 5 and 7.

3. MINUTE

The panel confirmed the Minute of its meeting held on 15 December 2020 as a correct record. The Minute was thereafter signed by the Chair.

Councillor McGinty advised that information that had been requested at the meeting on 15 December from Police Scotland had not yet been received.

Officers undertook to pursue this matter with Police Scotland.

4. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2021/22 TO 2022/23 AND RENT LEVEL 2021/22

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive providing an update of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) financial plan for the period 2021/22 to 2022/23, as well as the proposed HRA budget, rent and service charges for 2021/22.

The report recommended that the panel:

1. Notes the proposed 3% rent strategy for the period 2021/22 to 2022/23, encompassing HRA properties and garages, which will 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 2021/22 to 2022/23; and
3. Notes the proposed rent increase of 3% in 2021/22 and the updated 2021/22 to 2022/23 HRA budget.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. HOUSING CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2021/22 TO 2022/23

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive providing an update of Housing Capital Investment Programme for 2021/22 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 2021/22 to 2022/23 Housing Capital Investment Programme and related funding as detailed in the report; and
2. Notes the exemptions for works under the terms of the Best Value Framework, as outlined in section D.5 of the report.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. WORKPLAN

To note the workplan