

COMMUNITY, HOUSING & ASSETS OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
23 FEBRUARY 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Community, Housing & Assets Overview & Scrutiny Committee of Flintshire County Council held as a remote attendance meeting on Tuesday, 23 February 2021.

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Dunbar (Chairman)

Councillors: Helen Brown, Geoff Collett, Ron Davies, Adele Davies-Cooke, Mared Eastwood, Veronica Gay, Dennis Hutchinson, Brian Lloyd and Kevin Rush

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Haydn Bateman, Carolyn Thomas (Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Countryside) and Patrick Heesom

CONTRIBUTORS: Councillor Dave Hughes (Cabinet Member for Housing); Councillor Billy Mullin (Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets), Chief Officer (Housing and Assets) and Housing and Assets Senior Manager

IN ATTENDANCE: Community & Enterprise Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator and Democratic Services Support Officer

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

42. MINUTES

Councillor Ron Davies commented on the positive comments made to the Housing Programmes Manager at the last meeting and the thanks for his work over a number of years. He asked if these could be included in the minutes. The Facilitator responded that she would review the minutes to ensure they were included.

Councillor Ron Davies proposed that the minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Geoff Collett.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

43. FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKING

The Overview & Scrutiny Facilitator presented the latest Forward Work Programme and confirmed one amendments to the list of items scheduled to be presented to the next Committee meeting on 10th March. The Recovery Strategy update would be presented, which would provide the Committee with an update since consideration of the last update in December, 2020.

The Facilitator also confirmed that there had been no actions arising from the last meeting held on 20 January and all actions arising from previous meetings had been completed as previously reported to the Committee.

The recommendations outlined within the report were moved by Councillor Mared Eastwood and seconded by Councillor Ron Davies.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be noted;
- (b) That the Facilitator, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, be authorised to vary the Forward Work Programme between meetings, as the need arises; and
- (c) That the progress made in completing the outstanding actions be noted.

44. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 – TO CONSIDER THE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That the press and public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting for the following items by virtue of exempt information under paragraph(s) 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

45. HOUSING REPAIRS SERVICE PROCUREMENT OF A DYNAMIC RESOURCE SCHEDULING SYSTEM AND REVIEW OF THE TEAM LEADER JOB PROFILE

The Chief Officer (Housing & Assets) presented the report which provided an overview of the business case and an indication of how investment in technology could deliver a more customer focussed housing repairs function.

The Housing and Assets Senior Manager provided a detailed presentation, which was shared on screen.

The Chair thanked the Chief Officer and Housing and Assets Senior Manager Service Manager for their presentation which had been informative.

In response to a question from Councillor Billy Mullin, the Housing and Assets Senior Manager advised that Unison and Unite Trade Unions had been consulted on the proposals outlined within the report and positive feedback had been provided.

In response to questions raised by Members around the recommendations outlined within the report, the Chief Officer explained the need for the required repairs module and associated licences to sit within the existing contract with Capita. He also suggested that the Committee receive an annual update report at future meetings to enable the Committee to be assured that achievements outlined within the business plan were being met.

In response to a question from Councillor Veronica Gay, the Housing and Assets Senior Manager advised that the proposed technology would not be used by Housing Officers and provided examples of the technology they currently use in assisting Council tenants. There was the potential for the proposed technology to be extended to Housing Officers in the future to assist with scheduling of appointments.

It was suggested that the Committee support the recommendations outlined within the report. This was moved by Councillor Ron Davies and seconded by Councillor Geoff Collett.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Committee support the purchase and implementation of a mobile Housing Repairs solution incorporating a repairs module, associated licences and Dynamic Resource Scheduler (DRS);
- (b) That the Committee support the release of a maximum of £420k Housing Revenue Account (HRA) funding for upfront implementation and ongoing support and maintenance costs in line with the awarding of a contract for the above solution;
- (c) That the Committee support the required module, and associated licences, within the existing contract with Capita;
- (d) That the Committee support the procurement of a DRS solution via the Data and Applications Solution (DAS) Framework Agreement for 5 years, with an optional extension of two further years; and
- (e) That the Committee support that delegation be granted to the Chief Officer (Housing & Assets) to extend the contract(s) +1 +1 at the end of the 5 year contract term.

46. MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ATTENDANCE

There were no members of the press in attendance.

(The meeting started at 10.00am and ended at 11.26am)

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Chairman