

## Minutes

### Policy Review Committee

Venue: Committee Room

Date: 15 April 2014

Present: Councillors M Jordan (Chair), Mrs K McSherry (Vice Chair), Mrs M Davis, K Ellis, D Mackay (for Mrs E Metcalfe), I Nutt, R Packham and Mrs A Spetch.

Apologies for Absence: Mrs E Metcalfe (substitute D Mackay) and R Musgrave

Officers Present: Karen Iveson, Executive Director (S151); Simon Parkinson, Lead Officer Community Support and Richard Besley, Democratic Services Officer

#### **31. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **32. MINUTES**

##### **RESOLVED:**

**To receive and approve the minutes of the Policy Review Committee held on 15 January 2014 and they are signed by the Chair.**

#### **33. CHAIR'S ADDRESS**

The Chair welcomed Committee members and Officers and asked the Committee to consider items for the Work Programme and to forward suggestions to him or the Democratic Services Officer.

#### **34. PR/13/19 – Housing Rents and Misc. Charges 2014/15**

The Executive Director presented the report that had asked the Committee to consider the report, E/13/53, that appeared before the Executive on 6 February – specifically recommendation ii) relating to the impact of welfare reform on existing tenants wishing or needing to downsize, of re-letting vacant properties

at target rents, and whether recommendations are required for an appropriate policy in such circumstances.

The Director reminded the Committee that Policy Review was already considering Welfare Reform and suggested that this issue be considered alongside that work and that a more detailed report be brought to the July meeting of the Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

**To register the Committee's concern at the level of rent increase agreed and to defer the report on welfare reform until the next meeting of the Committee.**

**35. Welfare Reform Update**

The Lead Officer for Community Support provided an update from the meeting of the Task & Finish (T&F) Group set up to consider the matter. Officers had been asked to look at actions on Welfare Reform at other Councils and to bring their findings to the next meeting of the T&F Group, due to be held early in May.

The T&F group will return with a report to the July meeting.

**36. PR/13/20 – Annual Report 2013/14**

The Chair presented the Annual Report to the Committee for approval.

The Committee requested feedback on two items discussed by the Committee that had been referred to the Executive in January. Officers agreed to look into the outcome of the decisions on Planning and Renewable Energy.

**RESOLVED:**

**To note the Policy Review Committee Annual Report for 2013/14.**

**37. WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15**

The Chair asked the Committee to email any comments they had on next year's work programme to himself or the Democratic Services Officer.

The meeting closed at 5.35pm.