

At a Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Internal) of the Richmondshire District Council held at Mercury House, Station Road, Richmond on Thursday, 16 June 2022 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Paul Cullen (Chairman).
Councillors John Amsden, Karin Sedgwick, Paul Spencer (as substitute for Councillor Lorraine Hodgson) and Clive World.

Officers: Brian Bottle (Revenue, Benefits and Customer Services Manager) and Sarah Holbird (Democratic Services Officer).

In Attendance: Jeffrey Fullerton, Keith Hall and Eunice Robinson (Tenants' Panel).

Apologies: Councillors Lorraine Hodgson, Patricia Middlemiss and Angus Thompson.

OSI-3/22a Minutes - 17 March 2022

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2022 be signed and approved as an accurate record.

OSI-3/22b Minutes - 17 May 2022 (Special)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the special meeting held on 17 May 2022 be signed and approved as an accurate record.

OSI-4/22 Public Speaking and Question Time

There were no public questions or statements submitted for consideration at the meeting.

OSI-5/22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

OSI-6/22 Tenants' Panel Update

The Tenants' Panel provided an update on their recent work. Meetings are once again taking place with Keir, who are continuing to progress well with their scheduled work and in bringing voids back up to standard. Inspections of the void works by the Tenants' Panel have restarted. A meeting has also taken place with the heating contractor and members of the Panel will be taking part in estate walkabouts where possible.

Resolved: That the update be noted and the Tenants' Panel be thanked for their work.

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OSI-7/22 Council Tax Collection

The Revenue, Benefits and Customer Services Manager gave a presentation on the level of council tax arrears, how the Council compares with other authorities and the process followed when residents fall into arrears.

The Council Tax process is governed by the Council Tax (Administration & Enforcement Regulations) 1992 which gives statutory requirements for the recovery of unpaid council tax. Following the issue of an annual bill a maximum of 2 reminder notices can be issued in any financial year. If the account still remains in arrears, then a final notice is issued which requires the balance of the full years charge to be paid immediately. If either the reminder or the final remains unpaid then a Magistrates Court summons is issued.

Officers proactively assist residents when they fall into arrears, taking a number of things into consideration and ensuring that the taxpayer is in receipt of any discount/reductions they are entitled to.

Resolved: That information be noted and the Revenue, Benefits and Customer Services Manager be thanked.

OSI-8/22 Task Group Update and Work Programme

Further to Minute OSI-30/21 (17 March 2022), the Democratic Services Manager submitted a written report which provided an update on the Task Groups held since the committee's last meeting and presented the up to date work programme for 2022-2023.

Resolved: That the Task Group update and 2022-2023 work programme be noted.

The meeting concluded at approximately 7.45 pm.