

**SCARBOROUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL
SCARBOROUGH AND RYEDALE JOINT HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY
COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2014
MINUTES**

Present:-

Councillor Bill Chatt, Scarborough Borough Council

Apologies

Councillor Linda Cowling

Mr Andrew Rowe, Scarborough Borough Council

In attendance:-

Ms Lynn Williams, Scarborough Borough Council

Ms Kim Robertshaw, Ryedale District Council

Mr Kevin Wardell, Scarborough Borough Council

1 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

2 Election of Chairman

Councillor Chatt was appointed as Chairman.

3 Public question time

There were no public questions.

4 Annual Review and Budget Setting for White Rose Home Improvement Agency

The committee considered a report by the White Rose Home Improvement Agency Manager (Reference 14/314). The WRHIA Manager summarised the main areas of work the HIA carries out including the delivery of major adaptations funded through the Council's DFG budgets, well-being services, which includes a home visit to assess all areas of home safety and handyperson services which include minor adaptations for NYCC and Health and a small repairs service. The WRHIA Manager highlighted some key areas of success contained within the report which reviewed the work undertaken by the Home Improvement Agency during 2013/14:

- Delivery of DFG's - the HIA cleared the waiting list from RDC. This was within budget, due to new efficient ways of working and the Introduction of the DFG framework for showers and ramps, which reduced the average costs of work by approximately £1k and saved at least 4 weeks in the time taken to administer the DFG.
- Efficient ways of working - introduction of iPads and a web based system means the time taken to complete the majority of framework jobs is now less than 16 weeks, from receipt of the recommendation to completion of works.

- The HIA continues to deliver all DFGS within budget.
- Due to the successful bid submitted to Supporting People in 2013, the HIA has been able to roll out the well-being service and handyperson service across both areas. 3 well-being officers and 3 handypersons are now delivering these services across both councils.
- The new efficient ways of working has reduced the administration of the service; this has allowed the equivalent funding to be put towards the delivery of the well-being service.

Agreement was given for the RDC Housing Services Manager, Ms Robertshaw to act on behalf of Councillor Cowling in her absence. The WRHIA Manager confirmed the revenue and capital budgets for 2014/15 and established the budgets for 2015/16:

- Upon the establishment of the partnership RDC Agreed to pay £82,316 towards the running costs of the HIA, which represented approximately 1/3 of the estimated costs at that time.
- There is an anticipated increase in the running costs of the HIA for 15/16 and RDC have therefore agreed to an increase in their contribution to bring it to £85,667.
- Scarborough Borough Council has established a DFG budget of £685,000 for the 2015/16 financial year.
- Ryedale District Council confirmed an equivalent budget, this will be based on the previously set base budget (£325,000) plus any carry forward.
- Going forward the aim is to bring the Councils both in line with the partnership agreement which documents a split of 66.7/33.33%. At the current time RDC funding falls slightly short of this figure based on the proposed budget. Once the funding split hits this ratio any surplus funds will be split on the same ration to each council.

The RDC Housing Services Manager was happy with the increase and the budget. Joint working and the partnership was discussed:

- The partnership is now well established, proving a better working environment, delivering grants within short timescales, within budget and with no waiting list.
- RDC Housing Services Manager - Working together helped win the HP Service contract. This report and what's been achieved over the past year is down to SBC. Ryedale are happy with everything.
- RDC Housing Services Manager - Actual agreement in process of being reviewed. Will be ready in the next few weeks. The updating of staff will bring the agreement up to date.
- RDC Housing Services Manager and WRHIA Manager working together to put a marketing action plan in place for the HP and Well Being Service.
- DFG's funding for 16/17 – Amount has been set to go to individual councils. It is unclear as to how the DFG budget will be divided

RESOLVED that the committee:

- Note the 2013/14 financial year performance.
- Approve an increase in funding from Ryedale District Council of £3,361 for the 2015/16 Financial Year.
- Approve the annual budget for the 2015/16 financial year.

Reasons

To ensure the budget for the 2015/16 financial year is agreed in accordance with the White Rose Home Improvement Agency Partnership Agreement.