

CABINET – 14TH FEBRUARY 2019

Report of the Overview Scrutiny Group

ITEM 7 LIGHTBULB SERVICE IMPLEMENTATION MODEL UPDATE

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Overview Scrutiny Group in relation to an update of the Lightbulb Service model.

Recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group

That the Cabinet be informed that the Group supports the recommendations as set out in the report of the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing.

Reason

Having considered the report and asked questions of the Lead Member for Housing and the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing on the matter, the Group concluded that it would be appropriate for the Cabinet to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

Meeting Discussion

Following questions from the Group, the Lead Member for Housing and the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing provided the following responses:

- (i) The remit of the support workers was explained to the Group. A Housing “MOT” was carried out to assess what services were required and the Housing Support Coordinator would arrange for the provision of equipment, adaptations and signpost the individual to other services.
- (ii) The 11% increase in service costs was partially attributed to the National Pay Award, which had increased salaries for the staff involved. There had also been increased costs for the central hub management in Blaby which contributed to the 11% increase.
- (iii) It was envisaged that the scheme would produce overall savings to the public purse as more individuals were staying in their homes and not being dependent on social services care. There was also an emphasis on improving care for the individual and providing a more holistic approach.
- (iv) The targets for the scheme were set out to the Group. The Disabled Facilities Grant targets were being met but it was felt they could be improved. The initial target for the Housing Support Coordinators of seeing referred cases within 2 to 3 weeks was not being met although the hope was to decrease

the waiting list for the service which would enable the team to meet the 2 to 3 week target.

- (v) The Group was advised that the Scheme would be reviewed again if there was an increase in charges and reassurance was given that this was not an open-ended commitment.
- (vi) The Group discussed how the performance of the Scheme would be scrutinised and was advised that the current scrutiny structure would be changing and the scrutiny for the scheme would come under the Directorate scrutiny committee, to be added to their work programme.
- (vii) Running the Scheme in partnership had increased efficiency of service delivery as the Housing Support Coordinators acted as the single point of contact and could refer the individual to other services. There was an increased focus on joint working between services and offering a better level of support to the individual to remain living independently.
- (viii) The Group was assured that the Council had rigorously evaluated the Business Case for the Scheme before it was agreed to ensure that it offered value for money to Charnwood residents.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Committee Procedure 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a scrutiny committee should be considered by the Cabinet.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendation of the Overview Scrutiny Group.

Key Decision: Yes

Background Paper:

Overview Scrutiny Group Minute 56 2018/19,
11th February 2019

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