

## **STRATEGIC HOUSING PANEL**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2008**

Present: Councillors G Clements; A Jacob; P Whalley; E Woodburn

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Bowman; Mrs J Hully; J Jackson

Also in attendance: Councillor R Pitt

Officers: P Deacon; T Capper; D Cochrane

Also in attendance: T Bruce, Goose Housing Research

#### **SH 1 Appointment of Chairman and Deputy Chairman**

It was moved by Councillor P Whalley, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor G Clements be appointed Chairman of the Panel for the current year.

It was then moved by Councillor G Clements, duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** – that Councillor P Whalley be appointed Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the current year.

#### **SH 2 Terms of Reference**

The Panel considered the terms of reference of the Panel as agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 13 May 2008 which were noted.

#### **SH 3 Action Plan on Housing Inspection Report**

The Panel considered the Action Plan drawn up in response to the Audit Commission report on a Strategic Approach to Housing, which was designed to run for an initial 6 month period following publication to address the immediate issues arising from the inspection. Members noted the current progress on implementing actions on the report's recommendations.

The Panel noted that completion of a number of actions in the plan depended on successful recruitment to posts currently being advertised, and that interim arrangements would otherwise need to continue.

Members agreed it would be helpful to have a glossary of commonly used terms at a future meeting of the Panel.

The Action Plan and current status on targets was noted, with a further update to be submitted to the next meeting.

**SH 4 Draft Homelessness Strategy**

The Panel considered a draft homelessness strategy for 2008-13, which would be accompanied in due course by an action plan and delivery plan. It was intended to circulate the draft strategy to all Councillors and undertake other wider public consultation.

It was agreed that further refinements to the strategy be undertaken in terms of stylistic consistency and order of sections and a second draft reported back to the next meeting

**SH 5 Private Sector Housing Policy**

Tom Bruce of Goose Housing Research gave a presentation on the current review and update of the Council's policy for private sector housing, which has been in place since 2003. The review would need to take account of the results of the 2007 housing stock condition survey, which the Panel also considered.

The Panel noted the key issues to be considered in the review which were the type of assistance to be offered, who would qualify for assistance, the standards to be applied and the conditions, if any, to be imposed. It was noted that the timetable for the review envisaged consultation being completed by July 2008, a report by the end of August and implementation in October.

The Panel noted the position and asked for an update at the next meeting.

**SH 6 Date of Next Meeting**

30 July 10.00 am

Chairman

