

## **SPECIAL STRATEGIC HOUSING PANEL**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2012 at 2:00pm**

Present: Councillors George Clements (Chairman); Jon Downie; Reg Heathcote; Alan Jacob; Sam Pollen and Peter Stephenson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paul Whalley.

Officers: Laurie Priebe, Housing Services Manager; Kate Skillicorn, Housing Research & Policy Officer; Rachel Osborne, Sustainability Officer (for Agenda Item 7 only) and Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

Also present: Councillors Jackie Bowman; John Bowman; Hugh Branney; Yvonne Clarkson (arrived at 2:30pm); Margarita Docherty; Geoff Garrity; Fred Gleaves; Phillip Greateorex; Ian Hill; Keith Hitchen; Alan Holliday; Lena Hogg; John Kane; Michael McVeigh; William Southward; Graham Sunderland (arrived at 2:55pm); Gillian Troughton; Peter Tyson; Jeanette Williams; Carole Woodman and Henry Wormstrup (left at 2:25pm). Andrea Thorne and Louise Barks - Home Group, attended the meeting for Agenda Item 6 (Review of Cumbria Choice).

#### **SH 34/11 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** - That the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2011 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

It was noted that the figures referred to in Minute 32/11 had been copied to executive Members and would be sent to Members of this Panel.

#### **SH 35/11 Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

Councillor Graham Sunderland declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 due to being a Private Landlord.

#### **SH 36/11 Review of Cumbria Choice**

The Housing Services Manager, assisted by Andrea Thorne and Louise Barks, provided all Members present with an overview of Choice Based Lettings system which had been operating since May 2011.

It was stated that a six month review was to be held towards the end of this month.

At this point, questions from Members were invited.

During the discussion that followed, Members expressed concern that not everyone was aware of how the bidding system worked and that not all customers had access to a computer.

Members enquired about the Banding how it worked and how customers moved between bands.

Home Group offered training for Members on Choice Based Lettings in the spring

It was asked if any discretion was available when allocating properties.

It was suggested that as part of the six month review, consultation with the Localities be considered.

It was further suggested that a future Member Briefing Session be held on this topic.

**RESOLVED** – That a further report on the review of Cumbria Choice be prepared for a future meeting of this Panel to include:

- a) Quotas
- b) Local Connections
- c) Local Lettings Policies
- d) Household type and Property size
- e) Rurality and Equality

**SH 37/11 Response to Government Consultation on the Green Deal**

The Panel received copies of the consultation responses to Government Consultation on the Green Deal that had previously been agreed by Councillors George Clements and Alan Holliday and submitted.

Rachel Osborne, Sustainability Officer and Laurie Priebe, Housing Services Manager were thanked for the work they had put into formulating the response.

**RESOLVED** – That the Response to Government Consultation on the Green Deal be noted.

The meeting closed at 4.05pm

Chairman .....

Date .....