

STRATEGIC HOUSING PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2009

Present: Councillors G Clements (Chairman); J Bowman; A Jacob;
R Pitt; G Sunderland

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Jackson and P Whalley

Officers: K Parker Acting Corporate Director, Quality of Life; L Priebe, Housing Services Manager; A Davis, Housing Strategy Manager; D James, Member Services Officer

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2009 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SH 10 Declarations of Interest

Councillor G Clements declared a Personal Interest in items referring to Copeland Homes due to being a Member of their Board.

SH 11 Cumbria Choice Based Lettings Update

Consideration was given to a report updating Members of progress made with regard to the Cumbria Sub Regional Choice Based Lettings project. During consideration of this item it was noted that a date had been set to look at the priority banding system and this would be the subject of a further report to the Panel in due course.

RESOLVED – That a) the report be noted; and

b) Executive be recommended to approve the project.

SH 12 Homes and Communities Agency and the Single Conversation

Members were informed of a document issued by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) – Single Conversation which would form the basis of housing and other related investment over the next two years.

It was noted that this was to the subject of a sub regional meeting on the 3 July 2009 and it was **AGREED** that a further report be submitted in due course.

SH 13 Housing Needs & Development Update

A report was submitted and noted updating Members of the the Housing Needs and Development throughout the Borough. During consideration of this item Members expressed concern that some houses were being demolished before new builds and felt that this could result in the loss of facilities such as schools, doctors and public transport.

The report also identified Home’s current plans for the development of 119 new homes in the Borough.

It was noted that the Housing Needs Survey was being established and 9 rural housing needs surveys had been completed by Cumbria Rural Housing Trust which would strengthen the Councils document and understanding of housing needs throughout the Borough.

SH 14 Regional Housing Pot Allocations 2009/2010 – Discussion Item

It was noted that a change in the allocations formula had resulted in the Council’s regional housing pot allocation had been reduced by over £300,000 for 09/10.

It was noted that Barrow Borough Council were seeking support from other authorities to make an appeal to the Secretary of State to maintain Status Quo as the revised formula had been imposed without consultation.

It was AGREED – that a) Barrow Borough Council be supported; and b) a further report be submitted the Panel in six months.

The meeting closed 12.30pm

Chairman

Date

