

STRATEGIC HOUSING PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23 JUNE 2011

Present: Councillors George Clements, Jon Downie; Reg Heathcote; Sam Pollen; Peter Stephenson; Paul Whalley

Julie Betteridge, Head of Regeneration and Community; L Priebe, Housing Services Manager; D Cochrane, Housing Policy Manager; D James Member Services Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Alan Jacob

Andrea Thorn – Home Group, attended the meeting for Agenda Item 9 Home Group Voids over Six Months

SH 01 Appointment of Chairman

It was moved by Councillor Reg Heathcote duly seconded and

RESOLVED – That Councillor George Clements be appointed Chair for the Municipal Year

SH 02 Minutes

It was noted that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2011 should have been appended to the report it was therefore

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2011 be submitted to the next meeting for approval.

SH 03 Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

Councillors Paul Whalley and Peter Stephenson declared personal interest in issues relating to Copeland Homes due to being tenants.

SH 04 Copeland Homes Steering Group – Membership and Terms of Reference

Consideration was given to the proposed terms of reference for the Copeland Homes Joint Steering Group (JSG) set up in succession to the Copeland Homes Board.

During consideration of this item Members asked for the Liaison Group to be re-established and it was noted that this was in the process of being done and it was anticipated that it would meet quarterly.

Consideration was also given to three issues raised by Home Group it was noted that questions detailed at 2.1 and 2.2 of the report relating to future Member representation on the were to be the subject of a report to Council and therefore could not be answered at this point. In addition Members were also asked to consider the addition of point 6 to the proposed terms of reference that "To consider the impact of internal and external change on Home's promise under the stock Transfer Agreement" Members felt that they did not have enough information to make an informed decision on this and asked that Home group be invited to the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That a) the report be noted;

b) Home group be notified of Member representation following the next meeting of Council; and

c) Home Group be invite to the next meeting of the Panel to discuss issues relating to the proposed terms of reference.

SH 05 **Copeland Housing Strategy 2011-15**

Members received a verbal update on the current position on the Copeland Housing Strategy. Members asked how the strategy fit in with the carbon footprint and it was noted that there was Eat or Heat which was improve homes and make them more energy efficient.

SH 06 **Disabled Facilities Grants**

Consideration was given to a report detailing the allocation for Copeland and the other Cumbria housing authorities for comparison following the DCLGs announcement of the capital grant allocations for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) for 2011/12 . It also describes in Appendix A an approach to ministers and a letter to MPs in Cumbria requesting their support.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SH 07 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

RESOLVED - that pursuant to paragraph 7 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds of likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

SH 08 Home Group Voids Over 6 Months

A report was submitted and noted updating Members on all void properties over 6 month in the Borough of Copeland

In Public

SH 09 Any Other Business – Nominations for Appointment on Outside Bodies

RESOLVED – That Council be recommended that a) Councillor George Clements be nominated as Council representative for Cumbria Supporting People and Cumbria Housing Executive; and

b) Councillors Peter Stephenson and Paul Whalley be nominated as Council representative to Home Steering Group.

The meeting closed at 12.35am

Chairman

Date