

Copeland Homes Steering Group: terms of reference

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Clements
LEAD OFFICER: Julie Betteridge
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Summary:

The Company Secretary of Home Housing Group has initiated a discussion around the terms of reference of Copeland Homes Joint Steering Group. The Strategic Housing Panel are requested to determine their response to the issue in paragraph 2.1 and to instruct officers to reply accordingly.

Introduction

- 1.1 The Copeland Homes Joint Steering Group (JSG) was set up in succession to the Copeland Homes Board when the latter's term expired in 2010. It comprises representatives of the Home Group, their residents and the Council
- 1.2 The JSG's terms of reference included overall responsibility for the following five points:
 - "To receive reports on the progress of the Investment Programme.
 - To monitor the performance of the contractors and sub-contractors employed to undertake the works.
 - To comment on the designs and plans for the works, and to make recommendations to Home in respect of the same.
 - To consider any proposed variations to the phasing of the Investment programme, and to make recommendations to Home in respect of the same.
 - To monitor the Community Investment Fund."
- 1.3 The Company Secretary of Home Housing Group has made a proposal to amend the terms of reference.

2 Information

- 2.1 He proposed that a sixth bullet point be added to the terms of reference, as follows: **"To consider the impact of internal and external change on Home's promises under the Stock Transfer Agreement."**

3 Comment

- 3.1 This proposal was considered by the Panel at its meeting on 23 June 2011, when members decided to defer the item until a representative of Home Group could participate in the discussion. The Head of Customer Service, NW, will now attend.
- 3.2 Officers' comment is as follows. External change is largely, but not only, attributed to housing and related legislation; central government policy particularly in regard to finance and resources; and other changes to the economic environment. These may, and often do, impact on customers of affordable housing services. They include Home's current residents and those who wish to become residents. Officers are not yet persuaded that consideration needs to include internal change unless such change is driven by external forces.
- 3.3 Officers are also not yet persuaded that consideration needs to be limited to Home's promises under the Stock Transfer Agreement.
- 3.4 During the Panel's meeting on 23 June officers recommended that, if members were minded to accept the principle of change, the proposal be amended to read as follows: **"To consider the impact of change on services provided to Home Group's customers."** However, that recommendation was made in light of knowledge at the time. If further information is provided at this meeting the recommendation may be altered.