

STRATEGIC HOUSING PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 MARCH 2011

Present: Councillors G Clements, Chairman; J Jackson; A Jacob; J G Sunderland and Mrs C Watson.

Councillors J Bowman also attended the meeting.

Officers: J Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy; L Priebe, Housing Services Manager; D Cochrane, Housing Policy Manager D James member Services Officer

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R Pitt.

Minutes

RESOLVED - That the meeting held on the 8 March 2011 be signed by the chairman as a correct record.

SH 71 Arrangement of the Agenda

RESOLVED – That due to time constraints a) Agenda Item 7 – Strategic Housing Market and Needs Assessment 2010 be the subject of a special meeting held on the 23rd March 2011: and

b) Agenda Item 8 – Homes and Communities Agency: Framework for 2011-2015 Affordable Homes programme be deferred to the next meeting.

SH 72 Proposed Merger of Cumbria Housing Executive with Cumbria Supporting People Commissioning Body

Consideration was given to a consultation document on the proposed merger on the Cumbria Housing Executive and the Supporting People Commissioning Body along with a draft constitution for the new body.

During consideration of this item Members felt that in order to prevent any potential conflict of interest no dual-hatted Members should be elected as Chair and also they should be recommended to declared their position at the start of the meetings.

RESOLVED – That Members comments be put forward as Council response to the consultation.

SH 73 Disabled Facility Grants

Consideration was given to a report making a recommendation to the Executive which would give powers to enable local authorities to place legal charges on properties that have been adapted with Disabled Facilities Grants. The report also recommended that capital receipts arising from this source be ring-fenced and recycled into Disabled Facilities Grants.

RESOLVED – That a) the Executive be recommended that the Council places a legal charge on such properties where the conditions described in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.2 of the report are met; and

b) the Executive be recommended that capital receipts arising from this source be ring-fenced and recycled into Disabled Facilities Grants

The meeting closed at 11.30 am

Chairman

Date

STRATEGIC HOUSING PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23 MARCH 2011

Present: Councillors G Clements, Chairman; A Jacob; J G Sunderland

Councillors J Bowman also attended the meeting.

Officers: J Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy L Priebe, Housing Services Manager; D Cochrane, Housing Policy Manager; J Hall Scrutiny Support Officer; K Skillicorn, Housing Research and Policy Officer; D James member Services Officer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Pitt, J Jackson, J Kane, Y R T Clarkson

SH 74 Declarations of Interest

Councillor J G Sunderland declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 7 Draft Strategic Housing Strategy - Objective 1.4 – Developing the role of the private rented sector due to being a private landlord and left the meeting during this part of the report.

SH 75 Strategic Housing Market Assessment

Consideration was given to the draft Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2010 as commissioned in 2010 and undertaken by arc4 Limited prior to recommendation to the Executive and Full Council for formal approval.

During consideration of this item Members noted that the findings of the report were based on the 2001 census however the document would be reviewed annually with the first review being done on the 2011 census which would be published in 2012.

Members also felt that with the reduction in funding for the Disabled Facilities Grants and the Councils obligation to approve within 6 months a full review of DFG's should be done. It was noted that this was already included in the internal audit plan Members felt that this should be done along with a Peer Group including Members and relevant Officers.

RESOLVED – That taking on Board comments made by Members the Strategic Housing Market Assessment be recommended to the Executive and Council for approval.

SH 76 Housing Strategy Discussion Group Notes

The notes of the Copeland Housing Strategy Workshop Discussion Group held on the 24 January 2011 were received and noted.

SH 77 **Copeland Housing Strategy**

(Note: During consideration of Objective 1.4 – Developing the role of the private rented sector Councillor J G Sunderland declared a personal and prejudicial interest due to being a private landlord and left the meeting during this part of the report.)

Consideration was given to the draft Copeland Housing Strategy prior to recommendation to the Executive and Council for formal approval.

During consideration of this item Member stressed the importance that all objectives in the strategy must be subject to adequate resources and partnership working.

RESOLVED – That taking on board comments made by Members the Strategy be recommended to the Executive for submission to Council for formal approval.

The meeting closed at 1.05 pm

Chairman

Date