

## **STRATEGIC HOUSING PANEL**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2008**

Present: Councillors G Clements (Chairman); J Bowman; A Jacob; J Jackson; P Whalley; E Woodburn

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Bowman; Mrs J Hully and Miss E Woodburn

Also in attendance: Councillor R Pitt

Officers: L Priebe; A Davis; D Cochraine; D James

T Bruce – Goose Housing Research A Gale – Housing Consultant

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9 September 2008 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

#### **SH 19     Arrangement of the Agenda**

It was moved duly seconded and

**RESOLVED** – That a) Agenda 6 – Draft Housing Policy be considered at item 5;

b) Agenda Items 5, Draft Housing Allocation Scheme be considered at Item 7; and

c) Agenda Item 7, Disabled Facilities Grants be considered at items 6

#### **SH 20     Draft Housing Assistance Policy**

Members received a presentation on the draft Housing Assistance Policy 2008-2013 – prior to submission to the Executive and subsequently Council for formal approval.

During consideration of this item Members asked that First Time Buyers be included in those eligible for assistance under this scheme.

It was moved by Councillor A Jacob duly seconded and

**AGREED** – That subject to the inclusion of First Time Buyers to the list of those eligible for assistance to the scheme

a) Executive be recommended to consider and endorse the Policy for submission to Council for formal approval;

b) Guaranteed reviews of the Policy be made annually the first of which being April 2010.

**SH 21     Disabled Facilities Grants**

At the meeting held on 9 September Members consideration was given to a report seeking approval for proposals which would enable local authorities to place a charge on a property after adaptations had been completed which had used public funds. Members expressed concern that there were too many anomalies and inconsistencies and felt that these should be addressed prior to further consideration taking place SH 16 refers.

Consideration was now given to the revised report clarifying these issues and seeking approval for the report be to submitted to the Executive for approval.

It was **AGREED** – that a) the Executive be recommended that the placing and applying of a charge on a property where the amount of the Disabled Facility Grant (DFG) exceeds £5000 and the grant recipient is an owner occupier be approved in principle; and

b) subject to approval of a) above this be subject to a policy framework for determining whether or not to require payment and for appeals.

**SH 22     Housing Allocations Scheme**

(Note: Councillor R Pitt left the meeting during consideration of this item)

In response to the Councils duty to determine and publish a housing allocation policy consideration was given to a draft scheme for public consultation.

**RESOLVED – That** the Executive be recommended to approve the draft scheme as the basis for public consultation.

**SH 23     Trusteel Housing**

Members received a verbal update on progress made with regard to the current position for Trusteel Houses. It was noted that although progress had been made the contracts had not yet been signed but this was now looking imminent and it was

**AGREED** that a further update be given at the next meeting of the Panel.

**SH 24     Update Action Plan on Housing Inspection Report**

The Panel considered the updated Action Plan following the Housing Inspection Report

The Panel received an update on the current recruitment position to posts currently being advertised.

**It was AGREED** that a) the Action Plan and current status on targets be noted;

- b) a report be submitted to the November meeting on the development of the Older Persons Housing Strategy; and
- c) a report be submitted to the December meeting on progress for the establishment of a Copeland Housing Association Task Group set up to Negotiate Formal arrangements; Explore Affordable Housing Opportunities; Develop Choice Based Lettings and Develop a Joint Action Plan.

**SH 25     Date of Next Meeting**

It was **AGREED** that the next meeting be held on 18 November 2008 at 10.00 am

The meeting closed 1.20pm

Chairman