

STRATEGIC HOUSING PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 JULY 2009

Present: Councillors; P Whalley, Deputy Chairman in the Chair; J Bowman; A Jacob; J Jackson; G Sunderland

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G Clements (Chairman) and R Pitt

Officers: Fergus McMorro, Acting Chief Executive; J Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy; L Priebe, Housing Services Manager; A Davis, Housing Strategy Manager; Debbie Cochrane, Housing Policy Manager; D James, Member Services Officer

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2009 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SH 15 Strategic Housing Improvement Plan

Consideration was given to the updated action plan of tasks which have been completed, partly completed and those which remain uncompleted following the Audit Commission report on Housing. It was noted that steady progress had been made and officers should be thanked for their hard work. During consideration of this item members expressed concern over some long term voids in the Borough and asked that this be subject of a report to a future meeting.

RESOLVED – That a) the report be noted; and

b) a report be submitted to the panel on voids at a future meeting.

SH 16 Review of Corporate Approach to Translation

Consideration was given to a report on progress made in achieving one of the Audit Commissions recommendations to review the Councils approach to translation for all service users who have difficulty speaking English. It was noted that although the use of language was already in place many members of staff were unaware of the service.

RESOLVED – That a) the report be noted; and

b) staff be made aware of the service and how it works.

SH 17 Audit Commission Re-Inspection (Dates and Guidance)

Members received and update on dates and procedure for the Audit Commissions re-inspection of Housing services following a video

conference between the Head of Development Strategy, the Head of Policy and Performance, the Housing Services Manager and the Audit Commission on the 6 July 2009.

The meeting closed 12.30pm

Chairman

Date