

STRATEGIC HOUSING PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2012 at 10:00am

Present: Councillors George Clements (Chairman); Reg Heathcote; Alan Jacob and Peter Stephenson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sam Pollen and Paul Whalley.

Officers: Laurie Priebe, Housing Services Manager; Debbie Cochrane, Housing Policy Manager; Julie Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy; Clive Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer and Rachel Osborn, Sustainability Officer (for Item 6 only).

SH 21/12 Minutes

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2012 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SH 22/12 Affordable Warmth & Green Deal Issues

The Housing Services Manager provided Members with an overview of Affordable Warmth and Green Deal Issues and further detail was provided by the Sustainability Officer.

This included details of:-

- The Cumbria Warm Homes Project,
- The Sandwith Ward Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP),
- Winter Warmth Fund & Warmer Homes, Healthy People Fund, and
- Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) Local Authority Funds 2012.

The Panel then discussed the draft options paper 'A Green Deal fit for Cumbria "The Ambition for Warmer Homes"'.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted

SH 23/12 Affordable Housing Development Programme from 2008 & Projected to 2015

The Housing Services Manager provided Members with an overview of this report which outlined affordable housing completions since 2008 and indicated the extent of likely or potential further developments in the programme to 2015.

During the discussion that followed, it was suggested that 'Affordable Housing' be a topic for a future meeting of this Panel and that Home Group and Chris Hoban (Senior Planning Policy Officer) be invited to attend.

RESOLVED – That

- a) The Affordable Housing development Programme report be noted, and
- b) 'Affordable Housing' be a topic for a future meeting of this Panel and that Home Group and Chris Hoban (Senior Planning Policy Officer) be invited to attend.

SH 24/12 Community Alarms Update

The Housing Policy Manager briefed Members on Community Alarms.

It was stated that the Supporting People Commissioning Body agreed an efficiency plan in September 2010 which was linked to the provision of community alarms.

In May and August 2011, workshops were held with Housing Providers of Older person's services to discuss the significant changes to the way older person's provision would be funded.

In November 2011, an 18 month rolling programme was agreed. This would ensure a consistent approach to the way community alarms are funded through the Supporting People Programme across Cumbria. Work in Copeland was due to commence in January 2013.

RESOLVED – That the briefing be received

SH 25/12 Update on Allocations Scheme & Tenancy Strategy

The Housing Services Manager provided Members with a verbal update on the Allocations Scheme and Tenancy Strategy.

Members were advised that reports and recommendations on both the Allocations Scheme and the Tenancy Strategy would be put before the Executive at their meeting on 18 December 2012. If agreed by the Executive, the Tenancy Strategy would then be an agenda item for Full Council at the January 2013 meeting.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

SH 26/12 Housing Implications of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement

The Housing Services Manager outlined the main housing implications of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's autumn statement made to Parliament on 5 December 2012.

It was also stated that further detailed information was not yet available from HM Treasury, but would be provided at a future meeting of this Panel.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

The meeting closed at 11:30am

Chairman

Date