

## EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING

NOTES OF THE DECISIONS taken by Councillor Hugh Mason at his meeting held on Tuesday 18 September 2007 at 4.00 pm in the Executive Room, Guildhall, Portsmouth. Councillors Mike Park and Jim Patey, party spokespersons, were also present.

Officers Present: Margaret Geary, Alan Cufley Bruce Lomax, Peter Pennekett

### **8 Declaration of Members' Interests in accordance with Standing Order No 14 (AI 1)**

There were no declarations of members' interests.

### **9 Review of Charges for Mandatory Licensing, Enforcement Action and Non-Mandatory Inspections (AI 2)**

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY HOUSING)

#### **DECISIONS:**

##### **The Executive Member for Housing**

- (1) agreed the increased licence fee to be charged for all licence applications under Part 2 of the Housing Act 2004.**
- (2) agreed the increase to the charges made for undertaking enforcement action with regard to Part 1 Housing Act 2004.**
- (3) noted that the Head of Community Housing will undertake an annual review of these costs and report back to the Executive Member.**

### **10 Change to the Adopted Amenity Standards for Licensable Houses in Multiple Occupation (AI 3)**

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY HOUSING)

#### **DECISIONS:**

##### **The Executive Member for Housing**

- (1) noted the change in legislation concerning licensable houses in multiple occupation (HMO).**
- (2) agreed to the changes within Section 6 to the adopted standards for deciding the suitability for occupation of a HMO by a particular maximum number of households or persons.**
- (3) agreed to the methodology of proactively dealing with current licence conditions as described within Section 7 of the report, which are affected by this change in legislation.**
- (4) agreed that the changes will come into force as of 1 October 2007.**

**11 The Housing Green Paper 2007 “Homes for the Future” (AI 4)**

The Strategic Director for Health, Housing and Social Care and the Head of Community Housing stressed that the need was for a corporate, cross-departmental response and that the paper before the Executive Member represented the substantive response to be submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government by 15 October. They would welcome comments by the Executive Member and group spokespersons and wish to further widen the consultation to other directorates before the final submission. As the timescale did not allow submission to a full Executive meeting it was suggested that authority to agree the extra comments be delegated to the Strategic Director for Health, Housing and Social Care in consultation with the Executive Member and groups spokespersons.

Additional comments for inclusion made at the meeting included the on lifetime costs; whether the code should be mandatory on all housing suppliers; stressing the disadvantages to the City Council of the rent restructuring and housing revenue account subsidy allocations; further explanation of the desire for a more local autonomy in the planning system. The members also requested that the unique local position of Portsmouth be highlighted within the preamble to the response such as the flood risk, HRA subsidy, density of population and the owning of land outside the city's boundary.

**DECISIONS:**

- (1) That the text outlined within the report be agreed as the city council's substantive observations on the Housing Green Paper for emailing to the Department for Communities and Local Government by 15 October.**
- (2) That further comments be invited to inform the corporate response, with the Strategic Director for Health, Housing and Social Care being given delegated authority to finalise the response in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and group spokespersons.**

**12 Housing Executive - Cash Limit Budget Monitoring Report 2007/08 (AI 5)**

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR  
HEALTH, HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE)

**DECISION:**

**That the report be noted.**

The meeting concluded at 4.55 pm.

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Councillor Hugh Mason  
Executive Member for Housing