



NOTICE OF MEETING

CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING - DECISION MEETING

TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2009 AT 4 PM

**MEETING ROOM 2 (NB: CHANGE OF VENUE), FLOOR 3, THE GUILDHALL,
PORTSMOUTH**

Telephone enquiries to Joanne Wildsmith, Democratic & Community Engagement
023 9283 4057

The Cabinet Member for Housing is Councillor Steve Wylie and the Opposition
Spokespersons are Councillors Mike Park and Jim Patey

(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the Minutes of this meeting.)

Please note that the agenda, minutes and non-exempt reports are available to view online on
the Portsmouth City Council website: www.portsmouth.gov.uk

AGENDA

**1 Declaration of Members' Interests in accordance with
Standing Order No 14**

2 Supporting People Programme Update

... The attached report by the Supporting People Manager provides the Cabinet
Member with an update and progress made on the ongoing issues with the
Supporting People Programme in Portsmouth.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member for Housing –

**(1) notes progress made in implementing a range of improvements for
the Supporting People Programme;**

(2) notes the ongoing issues currently being resolved;

- (3) supports further communication with Communities and Local Government on the potential detrimental effect on services to vulnerable residents as a result of reducing financial support.**

3 Introduction of a Handy Person Scheme

... The attached report by the Housing Renewals Manager seeks approval for the introduction of a Handy Person Service.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member for Housing –

- (1) supports the expression of interest submitted by the Supporting People Commissioning Body;**
- (2) approves the introduction of a City Council Handyperson Service.**

4 Financial Assistance Policy for Private Sector Housing - Amendment 2009 (Home Energy Assistance Grant)

... The purpose of the attached of the Housing Renewals Manager is to seek approval to amend the eligibility criteria for Home Energy Assistance Grants and loan assistance within the current policy.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet member agrees

- (1) that eligibility criteria for a Home Energy Assistance grant in the council's Financial Assistance Policy for Private Sector Housing is amended to remove the existing criteria and replaced by the new eligibility criteria as set out in para 5.1 of the report.**
- (2) that the requirement for 20% of free equity, after the council's loan is registered, be relaxed in exceptional circumstance.**
- (3) that authority to approve such a relaxation be delegated to the Head of Community Housing.**

5 Disabled Facilities Grants – Change to Test of Resources

... The attached report by the Housing Renewals Manager advises the Cabinet Member on the recent changes to the Test of Resources and the potential financial impact

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member for Housing –

- (1) notes the content of the report;**
- (2) notes the likelihood of budget pressures being evident for 2009/10 and 2010/11 onwards.**

6 Council Housing Maintenance and Improvement and Housing IT Business Software 2009/2010

... The purpose of the attached report by the Head of Local Authority Management, proposed merger is to inform the Cabinet Member of the spending proposed for the next financial year for revenue and capital funded maintenance and improvement programmes together with Housing IT Business Software. Furthermore to seek approval to incur expenditure in respect of the capital schemes and rolling programmes and to show how the budgets had been allocated on an area office basis.

RECOMMENDED (1) that the area programmes with an allocation of finance for the funding of revenue budgets for repairs and maintenance of dwellings be noted;

(2) that the capital budgets listed in Appendix B, A, D and E commencing in 2009/10 be approved and the Local Authority Housing Manager be authorised under financial rules, Section B(14) to proceed with schemes within the sums approved;

(3) that the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources and Services' financial appraisal be approved for the capital programme – global provision.

7 Exclusion of Press and Public

RECOMMENDED (1) that the public be excluded from the meeting during the following items of business because it is likely that if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of "exempt information" within paragraph 2 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972;

(2) that in the event of the recommendations or resolutions of the Executive in relation to the following item of business being considered by any other Committee or by the City Council, they be recommended to exclude the public during such consideration because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of "exempt information" within paragraph 2 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Item	Paragraph No
8 Eligibility for Disabled Facilities Grants	2

(Paragraph 2 relates to information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.)

8 Eligibility for Disabled Facilities Grants

... The purpose of the attached exempt report by the Housing Renewals Manager is to seek the approval of the Cabinet Member on the determination of eligibility for a disabled facilities grant.

RECOMMENDED that the Cabinet Member

- (1) notes the legal opinion that the applicant is not eligible for a DFG and refuses the application;**
- (2) that the Cabinet Member requests that alternative options are investigated to assist the applicant in this instance.**