

## HOUSING

RECORD OF DECISIONS made by Councillor Steve Wylie as the Cabinet Member for Housing at his decision meeting held on Tuesday 16 March 2010 at 4.00 pm in the Executive meeting Room, Guildhall, Portsmouth. Also present was Councillor Jim Patey as Opposition Spokesperson.

### **9 Declaration of Members' Interests (AI 1)**

There were no declarations of members' interests.

### **10 Continuous Improvement Status Report for the Housing Service (AI 2)**

(TAKE IN REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT)

Owen Buckwell presented his report and reported that the project had been complimented by the Welsh Audit Office. Councillor Patey was supportive of the improvements that had been made especially with the Clean and Green. Councillor Wylie and Councillor Patey both agreed that there had been a reduction in complaints received as ward councillors regarding maintenance of council properties. Councillor Wylie stressed that the improvements would continue to be monitored and learnt from and he thanked all involved at all levels for this implementation. He stressed that not only were the residents more satisfied but the contractors were too.

Maria Cole, a resident present, spoke regarding improvements and she had noticed more regular clearing of rubbish and tidying of hedges. With regard to a point raised by her regarding housing blocks not having their own cleaners Owen Buckwell explained that there was not enough work for specific cleaners to be designated and it was more efficient to share this work and there was a telephone number to ring at the area office to report problems. He stressed that as well as improving the service this brought about cost benefits and savings to the Housing Revenue Account.

#### **DECISION:**

**The Cabinet Member for Housing noted the improvements made to the Housing Service over the last three years and continues to support this approach to continuous improvement.**

### **11 Update on Portsmouth's Housing Market (AI 3)**

(TAKE IN REPORT BY HEAD OF COMMUNITY HOUSING & REGENERATION)

Alan Cufley presented this report, stressing its value in understanding the overall housing market. It was reported that Anthony Quail, the report author analysed external agencies' information to ensure meaningful data for the city. Councillor Patey spoke with regard to the demand for four-bedroomed accommodation and hoped this could be encouraged now that there was relaxation regarding the building of council housing by local authorities. Alan Cufley responded that the city council was building family homes where there was the opportunity.

Maria Cole, as a local resident, welcomed family homes in the Somerstown area which the local community hoped would bring stability.

**DECISIONS:**

**The Cabinet Member for Housing**

- (1) noted the current situation within the housing market in Portsmouth;**
- (2) noted current progress with various initiatives to stimulate housing markets.**

**12 Housing Investment Programme (HIP) 2009/10 to 2015/16 (AI 4)**

Officers reported that the Housing Investment Programme had been subsumed within the February council report and a further report was not required and had not been published for this meeting but there would be the usual report back in July.

**DECISION:**

**It be noted that this report be withdrawn from consideration at this meeting.**

**13 Council Housing Maintenance and Improvements and Housing IT Business Software 2009/2010 (AI 5)**

(TAKE IN REPORT BY HEAD OF LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING MANAGEMENT)

Owen Buckwell presented the standard report of the area based office programmes that ensured proper funding for the priority schemes. Councillor Patey raised the issue of adequate disabled facilities within new builds making it simpler to adapt in future. Councillor Wylie responded that at Watts Road this had been borne in mind and there were some designated units and Owen Buckwell stressed that the council were DDA compliant but some adaptations would be specific to individuals' needs and therefore there was a £1.2 million allocation for this.

**DECISIONS:**

- (1) that the area programmes and allocation of finance for the funding of the Revenue Budgets for repairs and maintenance of dwellings be noted;**
- (2) that the capital budgets listed in Appendix B, Appendix C and Appendix D commencing in 2010 / 2011 be approved and the Local Authority Housing Manager be authorised under Financial Rules, Section B14 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.**

The meeting concluded at 4.30 pm.

.....  
Councillor Steve Wylie  
Cabinet Member for Housing

JW/DMF  
23 March 2010  
h20100316m.doc