

HOUSING CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by Councillor Steve Wylie as Cabinet Member for Housing at his decision meeting held on Tuesday 12 July 2011 at 4.00 pm in the Civic Offices, Portsmouth. Also present were opposition spokespersons Councillors Jim Patey and Lee Mason.

Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 1)

There were no declarations of interest.

11 Housing Strategy – Strategic Plan for Housing 2011/12 – 2014/15 (AI 2)

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

Alan Cufley reported on the forthcoming consultation; this would take place over a 3 month period starting with the Housing Partnership, and would include the Residents Consortium on 1 September.

DECISIONS the Cabinet Member for Housing:

- (1) Endorsed the draft Strategic Plan**
- (2) Agreed to further consultation with the relevant stakeholders**
- (3) Will receive a further report on the consultation responses and the final plan at the November 2011 Cabinet Member for Housing decision meeting.**

12 Service Business Plans (AI 3)

(TAKE IN REPORTS BY HEAD OF COMMUNITY HOUSING & REGENERATION AND HEAD OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT)

a) Community Housing & Regeneration

DECISION: the five main objectives of the Community Housing and Regeneration Service plan set out within the report were approved by the Cabinet Member for Housing.

b) Housing Management

DECISION: the Cabinet Member for Housing approved the plan and the key objectives for the service.

13 Portsmouth Affordable Housing Development Programme (Information Item) (AI 4)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY HEAD OF COMMUNITY HOUSING)

Alan Cufley will bring a further update report in the Autumn as part of the work to develop a Strategic Tenancy Policy required in the Localism Bill currently being considered by Parliament.

DECISION: the Cabinet Member for Housing noted these trends as the background for understanding the issues on the future provision of affordable housing.

14 Charles Dickens Centre (AI 5)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT)

Jo Bennett presented the report and stressed the support of the Governors at Charles Dickens Infant & Nursery School and she was working with colleagues in Leisure and Legal Services regarding the proposed appropriation. There would need to be a further report back setting out the financial implications (although it was anticipated to be of benefit to the General Fund), but the Secretary of State needed to be consulted on the principle first.

DECISIONS:

- (1) To further investigate appropriation of Charles Dickens Centre to include developing a plan for the management of the centre and integration of this facility into the existing community centre provision,**
- (2) To further consider what would be necessary to support a case to request approval from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1985, to appropriate Charles Dickens centre into the Housing Revenue Account.**

15 Omission from the Forward Plan – (agenda item 7) Grafton Street/ Estella Road Balcony Works (AI 6)

DECISION:

The Cabinet Member noted that the decisions were key decisions for the purpose of the forward plan but were not included in the forward plan for July 2011.

16 Grafton Street/ Estella Road Balcony Works (AI 7)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT WITH EXEMPT FINANCIAL APPRAISAL)

Meredydd Hughes presented his report, seeking approval to go out to tender for this improvement scheme to deal with the rainwater and confirmed that provision had been made within the Housing Investment Programme. He explained the current system used for undertaking surveys for maintenance works. The opposition spokespersons joined Councillor Wylie in welcoming this scheme which would both benefit existing tenants and improve the voids situation. The contract period would be approximately 26 weeks.

DECISIONS:

- (1) Approval was given to proceed with the scheme within the sum of £700,000 including a £85,000 allowance for contingencies/unforeseen works**
- (2) Following a full tender evaluation, authority to enter into a contract with the preferred bidder was delegated to the Head of Housing Management.**
- (3) The financial appraisal was approved.**

Dates of Meetings for 2011/12 Municipal Year (Information Item) (AI 8)

DECISION: It was agreed that the following scheduled meetings will take place for the Cabinet Member for Housing, on Tuesdays at 4pm:

20 September 2011
8 November 2011 (this may be subject to change)
31 January 2012
13 March 2012

The meeting concluded at 4.25 pm.

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Councillor Steve Wylie
Cabinet Member for Housing

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