

HOUSING CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by Councillor Steve Wylie as Cabinet Member for Housing at his decision meeting held on Tuesday 6 November 2012 at 4.00 pm in the Guildhall, Portsmouth. Also present were opposition spokespersons Councillor David Horne and Councillor Steve Wemyss (from 4.05 pm).

24 Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Councillor Steve Wemyss had indicated that he may not be able to attend and later apologised for his late arrival.

25 Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of members' interests.

26 Refurbishment of Connors Keep (AI 3)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT)

A revised report was circulated which would be placed on the website that incorporated both the new paragraph 1.8 relating to modernisation of other category 2 sheltered scheme buildings including Tweed Court and St Clares Court in Leigh Park, and the Financial Services comments. Meredydd Hughes, the Repairs Manager for Housing Management reported that Councillor Wemyss had been in touch with him to ask regarding whether there had been any market research regarding the demand for the conversion of one bedroom to two bedroom units in Wecock Farm. In response he could report that his staff had visited 70 properties in this need and age band and the feedback was that there would be a high demand for this and there were people waiting to move into these conversions. Councillor Wylie also thought it prudent to respond to the benefit reform changes which would lead to an increase in demand for downsizing. Maria Cole, the Residents' Consortium representative asked regarding the timescale for works and it was reported that this would be on a piecemeal and phased basis when properties were available for conversion. Councillor Horne questioned when the contract would be let for this and it was reported by Mr Hughes that he was in the process of completing the feasibility flats and in the new year the contract would go out for open tender.

DECISION:

Approval was given to proceed with the scheme within the approved sum of £1,437,500.

27 Wilmcote House – Cladding and Refurbishment (AI 4)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY HEAD OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT)

Meredydd Hughes presented his report which followed an 18 month period of working with the residents to ensure their views were taken into account, which had included a series of open days which had been very well attended.

It was reported that the works would be undertaken wherever possible in situ although there were some vacant flats which would be used as show flats and these could be used if needed, but installation would take place externally where possible. There would also be a PCC officer liaising with residents for the duration of the works. It was noted that the residents were pleased that the works would help reduce their heating costs through the higher level of insulation. Councillor Wylie responded to a question from Councillor Wemyss regarding the cost per flat and he emphasised that other options had been looked at including demolition and rebuild which would have been much more expensive and would also lead to major disruption for residents.

DECISION:

Approval was given to proceed with the scheme within the estimated cost for the project including the fees associated.

The meeting concluded at 4.25 pm.

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Councillor Steven Wylie
Cabinet Member for Housing

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