

Executive – 19 December 2006

Present: Councillor Williams (Chairman)
Councillors Bishop, Mrs Bradley, Cavill, Clark, Garner, Hall, Leighton
and Mrs Lewin-Harris

Officers: Mrs P James (Chief Executive), Mr J J Thornberry (Strategic Director),
Ms J Wishlade (Strategic Director), Ms S Adams (Strategic Director),
Mr M Western (Head of Housing) and Mr G P Dyke (Democratic
Services Manager)

Also Present: Councillors Coles, Croad, Guerrier, Henley, Hindley, The Mayor
(Councillor Hindley), House, Lees, Lisgo, Morrell, Mullins, Murphy,
Paul, Slattery, Mrs Smith, P Smith, Stuart-Thorn, Wedderkopp,
Mrs Whitmarsh and Mrs Wilson

(The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm)

108. Result of the Ballot to transfer the Housing Stock to Deane Housing

Further to Minute 89 (13 November 2006) submitted report which notified Members of the outcome of the Housing Transfer ballot. Tenants of the Council had voted “no” to the transfer of Council houses to Deane Housing Ltd. The ballot had been run by Electoral Reform Services and the total number of ballot papers returned was 4,890 (69.3%). Of those 31.3% had voted “yes” and 68.7% had voted “no”.

This result meant that the Housing Transfer would not go ahead. The Council would now start the process of drawing up detailed plans for how it would aim to deliver the investment that was needed to bring all of its houses up to the required decent homes standard.

It was intended that the following issues would need to be addressed in order to meet the reductions in services necessary to meet the Decent Homes standard by 2010.

- Re-organising the staff
- A business plan that would deliver decent homes by 2010 and maintain thereafter
- Prepare and submit this alternative business plan to the Government Office of the South West
- Consider the further use of advisers
- Wind up the Shadow Board
- Look at how best to involve tenants, members and staff in the finalising of those plans
- Finalise budget
- Decide on how to lobby Government for improved finances
- Consider the implications of no capital receipt being available to support social housing

- Request the Housing Review Panel to consider all these issues
- Decide the future of Deane Helpline
- Consider the Government's Respect Agenda and how best to develop this concept.

It was noted that tenants, Councillors, staff and all interested parties would be notified of this decision before the Christmas break.

RESOLVED that Council be recommended that the issues listed above be progressed with the aim of ensuring that the Housing Service continued to deliver as good a service to the tenants of the Council as finances permitted.

(The meeting ended at 6.26 pm)