

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
COUNCILLOR STONE - HOUSING SERVICES

(a) Housing Revenue Account - Revenue Estimates and Rent Levels 2003/2004

The Executive have considered the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2003/2004 which also includes details relating to the new rent level, arrangements for calculating service charges and information on the Piper Trading Account.

Both the Housing Review Panel and the Review Board have considered this report and the recommendations submitted reflects the views raised at those meetings.

The Council are therefore RECOMMENDED that the revised Housing Revenue Account Budget be approved.

(b) Housing Capital Programme 2003/2004

The Executive have also considered the proposed Housing Capital Programme for 2003/2004. It includes details of the resources available as well as recommendations for how they should be allocated. Investment focuses on the three areas of maintaining and improving the Council Housing stock to a decent home standard, providing grants to registered Social Landlords to build new homes and providing grants to individual home owners to reduce levels of unfitness in private sector properties.

This has also been considered by both the Housing Review Panel and the Review Board and the recommendation reflects the views of those meetings. It should be noted that the Budget for the Cash Incentive Scheme is to be increased from nil to £30,000.

The Council are therefore RECOMMENDED that the Housing Capital Programme for 2003/2004 be approved.

Councillor Phil Stone

COUNCIL MEETING - 25 FEBRUARY 2003

REPORT OF COUNCILLOR STONE - HOUSING SERVICES

New affordable housing in the Deane.

We expect to see the completion of 108 affordable houses for rent during the current year, 2002-2003. This includes 15 units at Lisieux Way, 12 at the former rugby ground, 10 at Cory Road, Eastwick Road and 10 at Milson Road, Cotford St Luke.

Projections for 2003-2004 shows a target of approximately 100 houses, the larger sites being at Tonedale, Cotford St Luke and at Wellington United Reform Church.

Given the limited amount of funding available from Government grants for new housing these figures represent a good performance from the enabling team.

The housing waiting list however is still standing at over 1,400 households and we badly need additional funding from Government to enable increased provision. The South West suffers from high house prices, relatively low wages and is not being given the special allocation of social housing grant recently awarded to the South East.

Plans for housing funds to be allocated at a Regional level will not help the position unless the total allocation for the South West is significantly increased and the differing needs within the region are recognised and addressed.

Councillor Phil Stone