



A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

29 JUNE 2010

PRESENT:-

P.M. Posnett (Chairman)
M.C.R. Graham MBE, S. Dungworth
A. Freer, M.R. Sheldon
J. Wyatt, D.R. Wright

Chief Executive
Head of Social and Economic Development
Chief Accountant, Head of Financial Services

C21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dean, Chandler and Holt.

C22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C23. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT REFORM

The Head of Social and Economic Development and the Head of Financial Services submitted a joint report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) for Members to consider the significant impact of the Government offer for a Housing Revenue Account reform.

Councillor Wright enquired about an interest contribution of £68,000 for 15-20 new houses between levels of debt. The Head of Financial Services stated that there were 2 different rates of borrowing and if the Council could commit to financing new Council housing then a lower amount of debt could be taken. The Head of Financial Services noted that the saving would need to be used to deliver the new housing.

Councillor Wright enquired how 'Right to Buy' was being factored in taking into account the current financial climate. The Head of Financial Services stated that the figures could be subject to some sensitivity analysis, but some prioritisation decisions about capital may need to be undertaken. Councillor Graham enquired if the Council had a bottom line that they would not settle on. The Head of Social and Economic Development stated that there were suggestions from the Housing Consultant to this effect.

Councillor Dungworth (in relation to the depreciation policy) enquired if there were any preferences or capitalisation policy for improvements. The Head of Social and Economic Development stated that the Council was waiting for CIPFA to release technical information related to this.

RECOMMENDED that

- (1) the suggested response within the report be approved and the final submission to go forward to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee for approval for the prospectus entitled 'Council Housing: a Real Future' as issued by Communities and Local Government in March 2010;
- (2) the depreciation charged to the Housing Revenue Account be earmarked specifically for the Housing Revenue Account with the use being determined as part of the annual Treasury Management strategy and Housing Revenue Account budget;
- (3) 100% of Right to Buy receipts be ringfenced to the Housing Revenue Account to ensure the ongoing stability of the Business Plan.

(Councillor Freer entered during consideration of the preceding item.)

URGENT ITEM – WATERFIELD LEISURE POOLS WORKING GROUP

The Head of Social and Economic Development submitted amended Terms of Reference for Members to approve.

RESOLVED that the Terms of Reference for the Waterfield Leisure Pools Working Group be amended as follows :-

- To investigate the development options for the Leisure Pools including exploration of all funding options
- To receive and consider updates on the progress of procuring a long term management contractor for the facility
- To make recommendations to the appropriate Community and Social Affairs Committee on the long term management contractor for the leisure pools facility

The meeting which commenced at 5.30 p.m, closed at 5.50 p.m.

Chairman