

Executive Councillor Records of Decision and Community Services Scrutiny (Special Meeting) Committee Minutes

10 February 2010

4:30pm to 4.50pm

PRESENT:

Executive Councillors:

Cllr Smart, Executive Councillor for Housing

Scrutiny Committee Members:

Councillors Al Bander, Blencowe (*Lab. Housing Spokesperson*), Boyce, Liddle (Chair) McGovern, Walker (*Lab. Community Development and Health Spokesperson*)

Non-voting co-optees: Diane Best, Anna Vine-Lott (*Tenant/Leaseholder Reps*)

10/CS/18 Apologies

None.

10/CS/19 Declarations of Interest

None.

10/CS/22 Public Questions

None

10/CS/23 Capital Budgets 2009/10 (Revised); 2010/11 and 2011/2012 (Forecast) (*Key Decision – Agenda Item 4*)

Matter for decision: Consideration of the Housing Capital Investment Programme.

Decision of Executive Councillor for Housing:

Capital:

a) Approved capital bids, as identified in Appendix H of the officer's report, for submission to the Executive for inclusion in the Housing Capital Programme and Capital Plan.

b) Approved the revised Housing Capital Investment Programme for 2009/10 to 2014/15, as detailed in Appendix K of the officer's report and the associated notes, to include approval of rephrasing of existing projects and schemes and approval of capital bids (as detailed in Appendix H of the officer's report), submitted as part of the 2010/11 budget process.

c) Approved the use of £290,000 (£108,000 and £182,000 in 2009/10 and 2010/11 respectively), of Section 106 resources identified for investment in affordable housing, to meet the required local contribution, towards the cost of delivering 7 new affordable dwellings to be managed in the HRA, with the balance of funding to be met through Homes and Communities Agency grant and an element of prudential borrowing.

d) Approved the removal of funding for the discretionary void element of the decent homes kitchen replacement programme, resulting in the ability to only undertake replacement of kitchens where this is required to make the property decent.

e) Approved a Housing Capital Allowance for 2010/11 of £14,912,000.

Reason for the Decision: Due to delays in the announcement of the Draft, and therefore Final, Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Determination for 2010/11, the Housing Capital Investment Programme had to be considered as a separate report at a special meeting of the Community Services Scrutiny Committee.

Any alternative options considered and rejected: As set out in the officer's report.

Scrutiny Considerations:

The Finance and Business Manager introduced the report to members.

In response to a members question regarding the Assessment Centre project, the Finance and Business Manager confirmed that the original resources had been approved and profiled in year 1 but the project was longer term and unfortunately the preliminary negotiations had taken longer than anticipated. Work had started on the Assessment Centre in 2009/10 and work was anticipated during 2010/11 and 2011/12, with completion expected in 2011/12.

In response to a question regarding works to the high-rise blocks of flats as a result of the Fire Safety Risk Assessments, the Head of Technical Services confirmed that all resulting Section 20 works would have to be fully consulted on. It was also confirmed that there would be no cost implications to leaseholders as a result of the delayed building work at Roman Court. Maintenance work would continue as normal and leaseholders would not be asked to contribute disproportionate repair costs as a result of any delay.

The Scrutiny Committee considered and endorsed the recommendations in the report by 4 votes to 0.

The Executive Councillor for Housing approved the recommendations.

Conflicts of interest declared by the Executive Councillor (and any dispensations granted): None