

ITEM 6

MINUTE EXTRACT

Time began 6.00pm
Time ended 7:50pm

COUNCIL CABINET 29 JULY 2008

Present: Councillor Jones (Chair)

Councillors Allen, Care, Carr, Naitta, Skelton and Troup

In attendance: Councillors Hickson, Jennings, Hussain and Williamson

Key Decisions

48/08 Private Sector Empty Homes Strategy 2008-11

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Private Sector Empty Homes Strategy 2008-11 and a report of the Community Commission setting out the Commission's comments. The report introduced the Empty Homes Strategy for 2008-2011 and recommended adoption of that Strategy by Council Cabinet.

Options Considered

There were no other options considered.

Decision

1. To endorse and adopt the Empty Homes Strategy 2008-2011.
2. To approve the use of any capital receipts arising from sales of properties acquired under the Empty Homes Strategy for further purchase of such properties, under the exception to the Council's capital strategy, outlined in paragraph 1.5 of Appendix 1

Reasons

The receipts would be earmarked for affordable housing/regeneration purposes. In this way, the receipts would not be subject to pooling at the rate of 50% -

where 50% would have to be paid over to the Government. The capital receipts would, initially, be added to the Council's Capital Allowance for the purpose of regulation 16 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance) (England) Regulations 2003.

In accordance with Procedure Rule AI26, the Chair of the Community Commission had been advised that this item would be considered although not included in the Forward Plan.

49/08 Derby Accredited Property Scheme

The Council Cabinet considered a report on the Derby Accredited Property Scheme for private rented properties and sought approval of the standards to be applied to the Scheme. Consideration was also given to a report of the Community Commission endorsing the proposals within the scheme.

Options Considered

To continue accrediting only student properties – the Student Accommodation Accreditation Scheme had been successful and popular with landlords. There was growing governmental, landlord and tenant interest in accreditation. It was felt to be appropriate that the opportunity to participate in accreditation should be extended to landlords of all properties, to encourage improvement in private rented housing conditions for tenants city-wide.

Decision

1. To approve the standards for the Derby Accredited Property Scheme attached to the report.
2. To authorise the entering into of an agreement with the scheme logo designer in the terms detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.
3. To authorise the registration of the scheme logo as a trade mark.

Reasons

1. Accreditation would help to raise private rented housing conditions across the city.
2. Owning the copyright and trade marking the Scheme logos would help to ensure the credibility of the Scheme.

In accordance with Procedure Rule AI26, the Chair of the Community Commission had been advised that this item would be considered although not included in the Forward Plan.