

# ITEM 4

Time commenced - 6.00pm

Time finished - 7.10pm

## **COMMUNITY COMMISSION 31 MARCH 2008**

Present: Councillor Bayliss (in the Chair)  
Councillors Berry, Gerrard, Jackson, Jennings, R Khan,  
Redfern and Troup

### **72/07 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies received.

### **73/07 Late Items Introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

### **74/07 Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Bayliss, Redfern and Troup declared personal interests as they sit on the Derby Homes Board.

### **75/07 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2008 were received as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **76/07 Call-in**

There were no items.

## **Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission**

### **77/07 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission**

The extract of the Council Cabinet minute relating to the Commissions budget recommendations was noted.

## **Items for Discussion**

### **78/07 Derby Homes New Build**

The Community Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services on the proposals by Derby Homes for new build.

Members noted that the homes would be available to the tenants under the Right to Acquire scheme over a qualifying period of years, although this scheme was less generous than the Right to Buy scheme.

Concern was raised that the rent be set to include the cost of maintaining the homes to a decent standard. It was reported that the Housing Corporation would set the rent and that included within their formula would be the cost of maintaining the homes. The rent levels could be provided to members of the Commission.

**Resolved to welcome and note the report.**

## 79/07      Review of Housing and Council Tax Benefits

The Community Commission considered a report from the Assistant Director of Customer Services on the improved performance of the Housing and Council Tax Benefit Service as at 17 March 2008.

Members raised concerns regarding the employment of an external debt recovery agency, it was noted that the preferred agency should be chosen carefully. It was reported that procurement was underway for this service, and that the agency would align to the fair debt policy. It was stated that the write off policy was still generous.

An update would be provided to the Commission in September.

**Resolved to commend the officers involved and to note the report.**

## 80/07      Derby LIVE

The Commission received a presentation from Peter Meakin, Head of Arts and Events on the vision for Derby LIVE.

Members reported that they were keen on the partnership working discussed, and would welcome further events in the City.

Concern was raised regarding amateur groups in the city and whether their productions were adequately advertised in the City. It was reported that all groups can promote their work on the Arts Derby website, for which there is a link on the Council's website and the advert is now also placed on the big screen in the market place.

Members thanked the officer for the presentation.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## 81/07      Performance Monitoring

The Community Commission considered a report from the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Services on the third quarter 2007/08 performance indicators that fell within the remit of the Commission.

**Resolved**

- 1. To receive further reports on:**

- **BV183ii – the average length of stay in hostel accommodation**
  - **BV184b – % change in proportion on non-decent LA homes**
  - **BV212 – average time taken to re-let local authority housing**
- 2. To invite Martin Gadsby, Private Sector Housing Manager to a future meeting**
  - 3. To note the report.**

## 82/07 Retrospective Scrutiny

There were no items identified.

## 83/07 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

There were no items identified.

## 84/07 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items.

MINUTES END