

Time commenced – 6.00pm
Time finished – 8:30pm

**COMMUNITY REGENERATION COMMISSION
10 JANUARY 2006**

Present: Councillor Jones (in the Chair)
Councillors Blanksby, Higginbottom, Rawson, Redfern Samra and
Smalley
Canon MacDonald – Co-opted Member

Also present: Councillor Bayliss

59/05 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richards and Mr Kazmi.

60/05 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

61/05 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Bayliss and Redfern declared personal interests in minute numbers 65/05 Derby Homes Delivery Plan 2005/06, 70/05 Derby Homes – Evictions and Write Offs and 72/05 Renewal of Derby Homes Management Agreement 2007 as they were Derby Homes Board Members.

Councillor Jones declared a personal interest in minute number 72/05 Derby Homes Management Agreement 2007 as she was a member of the Cross-Party Review Board that reviewed the Management Agreement

62/05 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Items for Discussion

63/05 Draft Revenue Budget 2006/7

Resolved to defer consideration of this item to a special meeting on 19 January 2006.

64/05 Community Grants Budget 2006/07

The Commission considered a report on the Community Grants Budget allocation for 2006/07. The report detailed that 45 organisations had applied for Community Grants Budget – CGB – funding in 2006/07. The CGB had an assumed budget of £851,491 for 2006/07, subject to the setting of the Council's budget in March 2006. The report recommended to Council Cabinet that 13 organisations continue to be funded on an three year basis – 11 of whom would be in their final year of CGB funding in 2006/07, to begin funding a further 2 organisations on a three year basis and to fund 10 organisations on a one year basis during 2006/07. The report also recommended that Council Cabinet approve grants to existing CGB funded organisations at the same level as they were funded in 2005/06, with no inflationary increase. The Commission were asked for their comments.

Resolved:

- 1. to recommend that Council Cabinet approve and adopt the proposals of the Council Cabinet Member for Adult Services as the best course of action in the current circumstances as it would preserve the status quo for key partner organisations.**
- 2. to recommend that should a points system be considered as a key component in decision making for future grant allocation, this should be made clear to organisations ahead of their applications being submitted.**
- 3. to note that the Commission identified a number of concerns about this scheme, that in practice excluded new applicants from receiving awards, and may later conduct a review on the topic.**

65/05 Derby Homes Delivery Plan 2005/06

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Corporate Services on the Derby Homes Delivery Plan for 2005/06, which presented the draft Delivery Plan doe 2005/06 for comments from the Commission.

A Member commented that in Section Six of the Plan – Service Standards, under 'Local Offices will', there should be a fifth bullet point 'be family friendly' as a number people visiting the offices will have their children with them and it was important to make them feel welcome.

A Member commented that Members were pleased to see proposals for new build within the plan.

Resolved:

- 1. to recommend that within 6.1 of the Plan regarding service standards in Local Offices, a bullet point be added 'be Family Friendly'**

2. to welcome the item in the Plan on New Build

3. to take account of the Delivery Plan in the current topic review

66/05 Housing Rents and Services Charges 2006/07 Consultation

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Resources which set out proposals for Housing Rents and Service Charges for 2006/7, which was attached to the report. The level of increase was restricted by the Government in terms of a target which had to be met by 2012. It was reported that it was hoped that the Service Charges could be reviewed but that this had been limited by government restrictions to increases in service charges.

Resolved:

1. to note the report

2. to welcome to proposed Service Charges Review

67/05 Current Topic Review Update

The Commission received an oral update on the progress of the current topic review. It was reported that a document containing draft conclusions and recommendations had been circulated to members and that a topic review meeting would be held with Housing Options Centre managers before the special meeting of the Commission on 19 January 2006.

Resolved to note the update

68/05 Housing Revenue Account Business Plan

The Commission considered a report of the Director of Finance on the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan. It was reported that the Housing Revenue Account – HRA – financial position was satisfactory in the short term, but funding in the long term, beyond 2012 would be more problematic. The report set out the financial position of the HRA in the current year and projected the position forward using a series of assumptions about future funding levels. The conclusion last year was that the Council ought to be able to consider commencing a programme of estate improvement works, known as Estates Pride, amounting to £15 million over the following five years. The overall conclusion of the report was that a similar level of investment could still be sustained as long as the government's promise of compensation for restrictions to HRA funding as a result of rent capping were fulfilled in the new year.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report**
- 2. to ask that an appropriate officer from Derbyshire Local Government Pension Scheme to attend a future meeting to explain about the pensions aspects of the Business Plan**

69/05 Performance Eye

The Commission received a presentation from Phil Davies, Chief Executive of Derby Homes regarding the indicators BV211b and BV66b.

Resolved to note the report

70/05 Derby Homes – Evictions and Write Offs

The Commission received a report of the Chief Executive of Derby Homes regarding Derby Homes Evictions and Write Offs. The report gave details of the levels of arrears, court cases and evictions over the last 7 years. It was reported that there was an upturn in arrears in 2002/3 which in turn caused an increase in legal actions and evictions. The levels peaked in 2003/4 and had declined since. It was hoped that the number of evictions would stay around the 60 level in future years. Information was provided regarding write offs for 2004/5 and broken down according to the reason why the arrears had been written off. It was reported that a private collection agency was used to try and trace debtors.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report**
- 2. to request further information on the costs of musing a collection agency recovered compared to the amount recovered**

71/05 Call-In

There were no call ins.

Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

72/05 Renewal of Derby Homes Management Agreement 2007

The Commission considered a minute extract from Council Cabinet on 20 December 2005 on the renewal of Derby Homes Management Agreement 2007. It was reported

that Council Cabinet had agreed in principle to offer Derby Homes an extended contract beyond the expiry of the existing contract in April 2007 and to agree in principle to renew the contract in 2007 for a period of four or five years, with the longer period being available if three star status was achieved in their next Audit Commission re-inspection due in February 2006.

Resolved:

- 1. to note the report**
- 2. to receive a report back to the Commission on the outcome of the inspection as soon as possible once completed.**

73/05 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

There were no items.

MINUTES END