

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

27 JUNE 2006

### OUTCOME OF CALL-IN PROCEDURE: HOUSING RENEWAL POLICY REVIEW

#### PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To report the outcome of the special meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) held on 12 June 2006, to review the decision made by the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture on 19 May 2006, in accordance with the Authority's call-in procedure.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The call-in procedure was recently instigated, following the decisions taken by the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture. The decisions were based upon a report entitled 'Housing Renewal Policy Review'. In doing so the Executive Member ordered the following:
  - a) the extension of the current policies;
  - b) the outlined policy principles for improvement and relocation packages;
  - c) the proposal to undertake facelift activity to property within, Ayresome Street, Princes Road, Portman Street and Woodlands Road;
  - d) the principles underpinning the policies and packages will be subject to consultation and a further report.
3. Subsequently a special meeting of the OSB was held on 12 June to allow the Board to review the decisions taken.

#### OBSERVATIONS

4. Having reviewed the decision, the Board made the following observations:
  - a) The Board was satisfied that the figures identified in the compensation packages were based on actual sale prices taken from figures available at the Land Registry, and that the packages should enable alternative properties to be acquired on a 'like for like' basis.

- b) The Board was satisfied that the repair and improvement packages available would assist residents to bring their newly-acquired property up to the 'decent homes' standard.

## **CONCLUSION**

5. The Board concluded that the decisions taken at the Individual Decision Making meeting held on 19 May by the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture were well-founded and that they should not be referred back.
6. However, the Board made the following additional **recommendations**:
- i) That the Council use plain English throughout the process in all dealings with the public.
  - ii) That particular attention is paid to the needs of elderly and vulnerable throughout the process.
  - iii) That the Economic Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Panel receives reports on a 6 monthly basis regarding the implementation of the scheme and in particular the effect any movement of market prices has on the viability of the compensation package.

**COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CARR**

**CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Board – 12 June 2006 'Call In - Housing Renewal Policy Review'

### **Contact Officers:**

Elise Williamson –Scrutiny Support Officer, Performance & Policy Directorate  
Telephone: 01642 729711 (direct line)