

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

17th October 2006

OUTCOME OF CALL-IN:

HOUSING RENEWAL POLICY

- Additions and Amendments
- Acquisition of Properties in Older Housing Area

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To report the outcome of the Individual Executive Member meeting of 29th September 2006 regarding the consideration of a recommendation made at the Special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) held on 18th September 2006.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2 The Call-In procedure was recently instigated following decisions made by the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture in relation to two reports addressing Housing Renewal. The two reports are

Housing Renewal Policy Additions and Amendments - which outlined the principal features of OHRAS and MiddRAS, the amendment of registering the legal charge with the HM Land registry, the consultation undertaken with stakeholders, and the level of proposed financial assistance.

Acquisition of properties in the Older Housing Area - which aimed to obtain approval of the principles to be applied to the proposed acquisition programme of residential properties in the older housing area, identified the level of funding from capital resources which is focused over the next two years on acquiring residential properties, the revision of the broad phasing

proposal for acquisition of properties, and the compensation payments in accordance with the code.

- 3 Subsequently a special meeting of the OSB was held on 18th September 2006 to allow the Board to review the decisions taken.
- 4 The Overview and Scrutiny Board received evidence regarding the basis on which the Executive decisions were made and also the grounds for calling in those decisions. The Board subsequently discussed at length the range of factors brought forth to support the respective positions and explored a range of questions.

OSB CONCLUSION

- 5 In relation to the report on Additions and Amendments, the Board decided not to refer back the decision, but did suggest an amendment to the decision. In relation to the report on Acquisition of Properties, the Board decided not to refer back the decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS (From - Special OSB 18th September)

- 6 i) That the decisions of the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture be not referred back.

ii) That the following additional recommendation be brought to the Executive Member's attention:

In relation to item No 1 (Additions and Amendments), the OHRAS limits should remain at a maximum of £7,500 / £15,000, but that they should be kept under review to take account of potentially changing market conditions.

INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER MEETING

- 7 The Executive Member for Economic Regeneration and Culture held an Individual Executive Member meeting on 29th September to consider the report from the Special OSB. The Executive Member addressed the issue raised and accepted the recommendation referenced in 6 ii above.

**COUNCILLOR MICHAEL CARR
CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

- (a) Report of the Senior Scrutiny Officer entitled 'Call-In: Housing Renewal Policy to the Special meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board of 18th September 2006.