

## **HOUSING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE**

Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Health Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 29 October 2008 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors P Barrett, A Wylie, I Campbell, J Flynn, A Gaunt, K Howie, E Maclachlan, M Roberts, W Robertson, D Scott, C Shiers and H Stewart and Mr A Boyd.

In Attendance: Councillor B Vaughan; D Burke, Depute Director (Housing and Community Care); H Turley, J Gilruth, C Flynn, C Crawford and L Potter (all Housing and Community Care), L Ross, M Dow and D Mitchell (all Housing and Community Care) (for Item 4 only) and A Wilson, S Hendry and J Jarvie (all Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillor M Barnacle and Mrs P Fyfe.

Councillor P Barrett, Convener, Presiding.

### **587. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Under the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor E Maclachlan declared a non-financial interest in Article 589.

### **588. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Health Committee of 20 August 2008 (Art. 434-440) was submitted, approved as a correct record, and authorised for signature.

### **589. HOUSING AND COMMUNITY CARE SIX MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (08/555) summarising the six monthly performance of Housing and Community Care from 1 April to 30 September 2008 against the service objectives and targets for 2008/09.

#### **Resolved:**

- (i) Following consideration, the contents of the Housing and Community Care Six Monthly Performance Report for the period 1 April to 30 September 2008, pertaining to this Committee's area of responsibility, be accepted.
- (ii) It be noted that this report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Community Safety Committee on 26 November 2008 for its interest; and to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2008 to scrutinise and comment as appropriate.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL  
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**590. REVIEW OF HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (08/556): (1) seeking approval for interim changes to the housing allocations policy, as recommended by the Housing Allocation Policy Review Member/Officer and Tenants Federation Working Group, to take account of the results of the Communities Scotland Inspection of the Council's Housing Management, Property Management and Homelessness Services undertaken during November and December 2006, and the issues identified during the review; and (2) describing the key drivers for change and proposing a new approach to the delivery of the housing allocations service which would operate within a Housing Options framework, focusing upon providing immediate housing solutions for households in housing need rather than processing applications for housing

**Resolved:**

- (i) The interim policy changes proposed within Section 3 of the report, to enable progress to be made with developments to the Northgate Integrated Housing Management System, be agreed.
- (ii) It be noted that a final report on the Allocations Policy review, and a separate report outlining the introduction of a Housing Options service, would be submitted to the Committee on 4 February 2009.

**591. IRRECOVERABLE AND VOID RENTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2007/08**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (08/557), seeking approval for the write-off of sums in accounting terms in respect of void and irrecoverable rents during the financial years 2006/07 & 2007/08, charged to the cumulative provision for bad debts for the Housing Revenue Account and General Fund respectively.

**Resolved:**

- (i) Formal authority be given to refer to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (within the next Revenue Budget 2008/09 Monitoring Report) for approval to:
  - (a) write-off the sums detailed in the report and summarised in section 8.1 of Report 08/557 and
  - (b) incorporate these sums within the final accounts for 2008/09.
- (ii) The contents of Report 08/557 be otherwise noted.

**592. FUEL POVERTY**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (08/558) informing Committee of the issues facing householders in terms of the rise in fuel costs and issues associated with fuel poverty, and also informing Committee of the steps being taken by staff to ensure that the people of Perth and Kinross had access to appropriate advice.

**Resolved:**

The work being undertaken by Housing and Community Care to help individuals tackle the issues of rising fuel costs be noted.

**593. JOINT COMMUNITY CARE GROUP STRATEGY SUMMARIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE CARE GROUPS**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (08/559) providing information on progress made on the joint care group strategies for Older People, Mental Health and Substance Misuse Care Groups.

**Resolved:**

The progress being made on developing care group strategies, in partnership with health services and the independent sector, for Older People, Mental Health and Substance Misuse Care Groups, as detailed in Report 08/559, be noted.

**594. COMMUNITY CARE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICE COMPLAINTS**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (08/560): (1) highlighting the complaints received about community care services between April 2007 and March 2008, and also noting the number of informal complaints and compliments received; and (2) demonstrating the way in which complaints and comments from service users were used to improve the services provided, with details on complaints that relate to Housing Services continuing to be reported as part of the BMIP six monthly and annual reports.

**Resolved:**

The contents of Report 08/560 be noted.

**595. SERVICE PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (08/561) setting out the Service Property Asset management Plan for Housing and Community Care Services.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The Service Property Asset Management Plan for Housing and Community Care be approved.
- (ii) The achievements made since the last report of the Service Property Asset Management Plan be noted.
- (iii) The action plan outlined within Appendix 3 of Report 08/561 be approved.
- (iv) It be noted that the key themes of this report would be included within the overall Corporate Property Asset Management Plan

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