

## **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 20 August 2008 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors P Barrett, A Wylie, M Barnacle, I Campbell, A Gaunt, K Howie, E Maclachlan, M Roberts, W Robertson, D Scott, C Shiers and B Vaughan (substituting for Councillor H Stewart), Mrs E Muir and Mrs P Fyffe (substituting for Mrs M Miller).

In Attendance: D Roberts, Executive Director (Housing and Community Care); D Burke, Depute Director (Housing and Community Care); H Turley (Housing and Community Care) and G Taylor and J Dickson (both Chief Executive's Service).

Apology for Absence: Councillor J Flynn

Councillor P Barrett, Convener, Presiding.

### **434. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

### **435. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Health Committee of 21 May 2008 (Art. 307-317) was submitted, approved as a correct record, and authorised for signature.

### **436. COMMUNITY WARDENS (Art. 380)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (08/402) on the establishment of the new Community Wardens Service in North Muirton / Muirton areas of Perth and Rattray.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The progress on the new Community Wardens Service in North Muirton/Muirton, Perth and Rattray be noted.
- (ii) It be noted that a similar report (08/346) had been submitted to the Community Safety Committee on 18 June 2008.

COUNCILLOR WYLIE TOOK THE CHAIR.

### **437. HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2007/08 (Art. 473/07)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (08/403) seeking approval of the fifth Annual Progress Report on the Homelessness Strategy covering the year 2007-08.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL  
HOUSING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE  
20 August 2008

**Resolved**

- (i) The Homelessness Strategy Annual Progress Report for 2007-08, as detailed in the appendix to Report 08/403, be approved and submitted to the Scottish Government.
- (ii) It be noted that Perth and Kinross Council had met three of the Scottish Government's five Top Level Outcomes (no-one need sleep rough; existing homelessness becomes more visible; and sustainable resettlement is secure for people who become homeless) and failed to meet two of the outcomes (fewer people become homeless in the first place; and the duration of homelessness is reduced).
- (iii) It be noted that the Council had not been able to extend priority need status to a greater proportion of homeless applicants because of the chronic shortage of social rented housing in the area and consequently would not be able to meet the Scottish Government's 2009 target of increasing the number of priority need determinations from 68% in 2003/04 to 84% in 2009/10.
- (iv) It be noted that the Council would seek to enter into discussions with the Housing Regulator regarding the projected failure to meet the 2009 target.

**438. PROJECTS COMPLETED WITH HOUSING ESTATE REGENERATION FUNDING (HERF)**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (08/404) detailing the environmental improvement projects successfully completed recently in Hillyland/Letham, Perth, and Rattray which had been funded through the Housing Estate Regeneration Funding (HERF) provided by Communities Scotland and the Scottish Government.

**Resolved:**

The successful completion of environmental improvement projects in Hillyland/Letham, Perth and Rattray, funded through the Housing Estate Regeneration Funding (HERF) provided by Communities Scotland and the Scottish Government, be noted.

COUNCILLOR BARRETT RESUMED THE CHAIR.

**439. RENT CHARGING STRUCTURE IN PERTH & KINROSS**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (08/405) reviewing Perth and Kinross Council's rent structure for its housing stock and seeking approval of a formal review of its council house rent charging structure.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The proposed review of the rent structure of the Council's housing stock and the timescale for completion of the review by February 2009 be approved.
- (ii) A report on the outcomes of the review of the rent structure be submitted to a meeting of the Housing and Health Committee in February 2009.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL  
HOUSING AND HEALTH COMMITTEE  
20 August 2008

**440. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT TEAM EVENT – VOID PROPERTY PROCESS**

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (08/406) seeking approval of proposals for improving the way in which the Council deals with void properties which is aimed at streamlining the voids process from the receipt of notice of termination of tenancy to the re-let of the property, whilst improving customer experience and adding value and minimising void rent loss.

**Resolved:**

- (i) The proposals to streamline the void process, as outlined in Report 08/406, be approved and it be agreed in principle to consider the proposals to deal with void and re-letting in relation to Estates and Tenancy Managements as outlined in Report 08/406, when these reports are available.
- (ii) The Monthly Void Performance, Monitoring and Scrutiny Group to monitor performance against the implementation and outcome of the proposals be continued.

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