



FAREHAM BOROUGH
COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

*Minutes of a meeting held on 15 November 2012
at the Civic Offices, Fareham*

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs M E Ellerton
(Chairman)

T G Knight
(Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Miss S M Bell, N R Gregory, D C S Swanbrow (deputising for D L Steadman) and Mrs K K Trott.

Also Present: Councillor B Bayford, Executive Member for Housing (Minute 1 and 8)

1. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded members that the Panel had been renamed as the Health and Housing Policy Development Review Panel since health matters would now fall within its remit.

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Executive Member for Health and Housing, Councillor B Bayford addressed the Panel and briefly explained the background to government changes in the health services. He also informed members that he had recently been appointed as the Fareham representative to the Gosport and Fareham Clinical Commissioning Group.

Whilst both Hampshire County Council and many district councils had set up specific Health and Wellbeing Panels, it was intended that the Health and Housing Policy Development and Review Panel would act as Fareham Council's Health and Wellbeing Panel. From time to time the Panel would be asked to consider and comment on health strategies and priorities, thus

enabling the Executive Member to feed back the Panel's views to the Clinical Commissioning Group and/ or the Health and Wellbeing Board.

It was AGREED that the Director of Community prepare a report for submission to the next Panel meeting on 17 January 2013, which would explain the role, remit and responsibilities of the Panel as regard to health issues.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor P J Davies and D L Steadman

3. MINUTES

It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting of the Housing Policy Development and Review Panel held on 13 September 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record ([hsg-120913-m](#)).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISCLOSURES OF ADVICE OR DIRECTIONS

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

6. REVIEW OF THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2012/13

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community which invited members to review the Panel's Work Programme for 2012/13 (copy of report [hsg-121115-r01-mge](#) circulated with the agenda).

It was noted that a report will be presented to the next meeting meeting on 17 January 2013 outlining the Panel's remit, role and responsibilities in relation to health matters (see minute 1 above).

It was AGREED that, subject to the inclusion of an item referred to above, the Panel's work programme for 2012/13, as set out in appendix A attached to the report, be approved.

7. FAREHAM'S TENANCY STRATEGY

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community which invited the Panel's comments on the draft Tenancy Strategy for Fareham, prior to consultation and consideration by the Executive in February 2013 (copy of report [hsg-121115-r03-jsh](#) circulated with the agenda).

Members considered the draft tenancy strategy document in detail and discussed the various tenancy types specified in the report, particularly the

proposed introduction of a secure flexible tenancy. It was noted that the draft tenancy strategy had already been considered by the Housing Tenancy Board at its meeting on 12 November 2012. The comments of the Board and the Panel, together with other feedback, would be incorporated into a final report to be considered by the Executive at its meeting in February 2013.

It was proposed that the reference on Page 10, (second paragraph), to "a senior officer" be replaced with the words "Tenancy Services Manager".

It was AGREED that, subject to the replacement of the words "a senior officer" with the words "Tenancy Services Manager" on Page 10 of the draft document, Fareham's Draft Tenancy Strategy, attached as Appendix A to the report, be endorsed.

8. NOMINATION POLICY REVIEW

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community concerning the draft revised allocations policy which had been developed following a review of the existing policy by an Officer/Member Working Group. The Senior Housing Options Officer also made a presentation which provided information on the purpose of the review; outlined the main proposed amendments, the possible implications of the introduction of a new policy and the next steps towards implementation (copy of report [hsg-121115-r02-eti](#) circulated with the agenda).

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Bayford took part in the discussion on this matter.

The Panel was informed that the period of consultation on the draft Policy will take place from November 2012 to mid February 2013. The following individuals/organisations would be consulted:-

- (i) All applicants on the housing waiting list;
- (ii) Partner Housing Associations;
- (iii) Local agencies - Adult and Children's Services and Supporting People providers;
- (iv) Members of the public via the Council's website, Twitter and Facebook

Members asked various detailed questions of officers on the contents of the Housing Allocations Policy document attached as Appendix A to the report. Reference was made to page 22, paragraph 10.6 which stated :-

"Debts that remain unaddressed and are in excess of £2000 are likely to result in an applicant being excluded from the Housing Waiting List. However, each case will be assessed on its individual merits".

It was the Panel's view that the figure should be reduced to £500, so that a clear message is sent out as to the implications if a person is in debt to the

Council, although each case would be considered on its individual merit, taking all factors into account.

It was AGREED that,

- (i) the figure of £2000 in paragraph 10.6 (Page 22) of the draft allocations report be amended to £500; and
- (ii) subject to the amendment referred to above, the draft Allocations Policy detailed in Appendix A to the report, be endorsed.

9. DELIVERY OF NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING - ANNUAL REPORT

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Community which outlined progress in the delivery of affordable housing since 2011 and progress made towards meeting the target of 500 homes by 2017 (copy of report [hsg-121115-r04-mst](#) circulated with the agenda).

It was AGREED that the Panel noted the current affordable housing programme and progress made towards the provision for 2013-2017.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm
and ended at 7:25pm)