



FAREHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

CIVIC OFFICES CIVIC WAY FAREHAM HAMPSHIRE

Minutes of the Housing Overview Panel

*Minutes of a meeting held on 6 November 2003
at the Civic Offices, Fareham*

PRESENT:

Councillor M F Godrich
(Chairman)

Councillor Mrs M R Nadolski
(Vice-Chairman)

Councillors: Mrs M E Ellerton, Miss C S Hester, D J Norris and Mrs K K Trott

Also present: H W L Pritchard

1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D L Steadman.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Housing Overview Panel held on 11 September 2003 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.
([ho-030911-m](#)).

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman reported that the Executive Member for Housing, Councillor E A Crouch, was unable to be present at the meeting.

4. **SHELTERED SCHEME PILOT REMODELLING PROGRAMME**

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Housing on the Sheltered Scheme Pilot Remodelling Programme (copy of report [ho-031106-r06-cne](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Pritchard addressed the Panel during the consideration of this item.

It was AGREED that it be recommended to the Executive that a Pilot Scheme for Option B (as detailed in the report), involving the remodelling of a bedsit unit at Collingwood House, be carried out and that the proposed scheme be given further consideration once members had visited the pilot and the results of consultation with residents were available.

5. **ALLOCATIONS SCHEME**

The Panel received a verbal update from the Director of Housing on changes to the proposed Allocations Scheme following discussions with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Members' attention was drawn to the report considered by the Executive at its meeting on 27 October 2003 – xho-031027-r03-ata.

It was AGREED that the amendments made to the proposed Allocations Scheme as a result of the comments of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister be noted and that it be further noted that the Panel would receive a further report on the proposed Scheme following the consultation exercise.

6. **REVIEW OF LETTINGS POLICY – FROSTHOLE CLOSE**

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Housing on the review of the lettings policy at Frosthole Close, Fareham (copy of report [ho-031106-r05-jsh](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

It was AGREED:-

- (a) that it be recommended to the Executive that the officers consult with the tenants at Frosthole Close over the proposal that first floor one-bedroom units be let to housing applicants over 50 years of age where there is found to be no applicant or need for the unit to be used as sheltered accommodation; and
- (b) that the Panel then review the allocations policy at Frosthole Close in light of the comments received.

7. **MEDICAL POINTS SCHEME**

The Panel received a verbal report by the Director of Housing on the implications of the Health Authority ending its medical assessment service for applicants to the Housing Register. Details were also given of the consultation which was taking place between Fareham and Gosport Borough Councils and Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust to try and alleviate the situation.

7. Contd.

The matter had also been discussed at the meeting of the Fareham and Gosport Joint Health Liaison Panel on 4 November 2003.

It was AGREED that it be noted that, whilst the local Primary Care Trust has agreed to fund the provision of medical assessments for relevant housing applicants by general practitioners until the end of the year, there are apprehensions for the future and possible financial implications for Fareham Borough Council.

8. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL EXTERNAL SCRUTINY

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Housing on the first meeting of the Drugs and Alcohol Scrutiny Working Group held on 17 October 2003 (copy of report [ho-031106-r04-dbl](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

It was AGREED that it be noted that the Drugs and Alcohol Scrutiny Working Group has mapped out the scope of the scrutiny process and how it will be considered further at the next meeting on 23 January 2004, when there will also be initial feedback from the agencies supplying information.

9. PERFORMANCE MONITORING

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Housing containing the information relating to performance monitoring requested by the Panel (copy of report [ho-031106-r02-scl](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

At the invitation of the Chairman, the Panel was addressed by Councillor Pritchard during the consideration of this item.

It was AGREED that the contents of the report be noted.

10. OVERVIEW PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME

The Panel reviewed its work programme for the year as agreed at the last meeting (copy of report [ho-031106-r01-cbe](#) circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

It was AGREED:-

- (a) that Draft Housing Strategy be deleted from the Programme for 6 November 2003 and added to the Programme for 8 January 2004;
- (b) that HRA Business Plan be deleted from the Programme for 6 November 2003 and added to the Programme for 8 January 2004;

10. Contd.

- (c) that Review of Sheltered Housing – Garden Court be deleted from the Programme for 6 November 2004; and
- (d) that Amendment to the Private Sector Housing Strategy be added to the Programme for 8 January 2004.

(The meeting started at 6:00pm
and ended at 8:05pm)