

LANDLORD SERVICES COMMITTEE (CABINET WORKING GROUP) – 4 NOVEMBER 2015

28. SALE OF HIGH VALUE COUNCIL HOUSES

Consideration was given to the draft report of the Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration that was seeking the direction of Cabinet to progress with the sales of “high value” Council houses when they become empty, prior to legislation being introduced.

The Deputy Assistant Director Housing and Regeneration gave an overview of the proposals, provided clarification on issues raised and responded to questions.

In discussion comments and questions were raised in relation to:

- West Lancashire “High value properties” – identification; possible vacancies.
- Proposals to act prior to the Housing Bill’s enactment – advantages/disadvantages.
- Registered Social Landlords (RSL) Government proposals – financial impact.
- Policy Considerations – wider/future impact of proposed change; lack of clarity.
- Opportunities for further scrutiny.

The Borough Treasurer provided further clarification and responded to questions related to Rights to Buy and associated financial issues.

RESOLVED: As a consequence of the discussion on this item the agreed comment to Cabinet be that there were “mixed views” on the proposals.