



AGENDA ITEM: 5(a)(1)

**CABINET:
20 JANUARY 2009**

Report of: Council Secretary and Solicitor

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mrs Hopley

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SUBJECT: TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CAPITAL RECEIPTS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

District wide interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To advise of the decision of the Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 4 December 2008.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That in relation to Cabinet minute no. 70 (D) the Leader be requested to consider co-opting a Labour Member to serve on the Cabinet Panel.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 The Executive Overview and Scrutiny Committee called in the report from Cabinet entitled "Transitional Housing Capital Receipts and Affordable Housing".

3.2 The minute of that meeting reads as follows:-

"46. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING CAPITAL RECEIPTS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Consideration was given to the report of the Council Secretary and Solicitor which provided details of a decision of the Cabinet called in by 5 Members of the Committee

on the transitional housing capital receipts and affordable housing (minute no. 70 of Cabinet, 18 November 2008, refers).

Members noted the reason for the decision being called in and went on to debate the alternative decision included within the notice of call in, namely that a Council Sub-Committee be formed with appropriate co-optees, to consider these matters.

RESOLVED That the Committee does not wish to seek a different decision from the Cabinet in this matter, but requests that in relation to Minute no. 70(D) a Labour Member be co-opted upon the Affordable Housing Panel.”

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

Minute no. 70 Cabinet 18 November 2008 – Transitional Housing Capital Receipts and Affordable Housing

70. Transitional Housing Capital Receipts and Affordable Housing

Councillor Mrs Hopley introduced the report of the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services on issues relating to the use of Transitional Housing Capital Receipts (THCR) funding for affordable housing purposes and suggesting the establishment of a Cabinet Panel to shape, monitor and approve the Council's approach so that there is a viable affordable housing policy to meet housing need, deal with other associated issues and assist wider regeneration proposals.

In reaching the decision set out below, the Cabinet considered the details set out in the report before it and accepted the reasons contained in it.

- RESOLVED:
- A. That an Affordable Housing Cabinet Panel comprising 3 Cabinet members together with co-opted members with no voting rights be established to: drive forward the Council's work on developing affordable housing by ensuring that the local affordable housing policy is conducive to realising positive affordable housing outcomes; ensure appropriate housing need and housing market information is available to support need for affordable housing interventions, including LDF policy formulation; explore delivery mechanisms that will enable maximum benefit of THCR and any other funding that is levered in to West Lancashire; commission appropriate research to further the affordable housing agenda; and consider how to use THCR to invest in appropriate affordable housing schemes, and to report back to Cabinet with recommendations as appropriate.
 - B. That the Cabinet Panel agree a spending plan for the use of THCR funds, subject to any decisions made by Council during the budget process on the future Capital Programme.
 - C. That the Executive Manager Housing and Property Maintenance Services be given delegated authority to agree the terms of reference of the Cabinet Panel after consultation with the Leader.
 - D. That it be noted that the Leader will advise officers of the names of the Cabinet and co-opted members to serve on the Panel.