

## Housing Best Value Sub-Committee - 5 June 2003

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Housing Best Value Sub-Committee** at a reconvened meeting held on **5 June 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr P F A Webster (Chairman)

Cllr K A Gibbs  
Cllr T Livings

Cllr P K Savill  
Cllr Mrs M S Vince

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

R Crofts - Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)  
G Woolhouse - Head of Housing, Health & Community Care  
S Clarkson - Head of Revenue and Housing Management  
J Bostock - Principal Committee Administrator

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

#### **Resolved,**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the business on the grounds that confidential information as defined in Section 100A (2)(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed.

## **8 HOUSING BEST VALUE INSPECTION – DRAFT REPORT**

Note: The Chairman had accepted this item of urgent business as an Officer response to the draft report was required by 6 June 2003.

The Sub-Committee considered the confidential report of the Corporate Director (Finance & External Services) seeking views on a proposed response to the Audit Commission's draft report relating to the Housing Best Value Inspection.

Members proceeded to give detailed page by page consideration to the proposed response. A copy of the finalised response document is set out as a confidential appendix to these Minutes.

During debate reference was made to the likelihood that, notwithstanding all the concerns raised, the Audit Commission would proceed to publish the report more or less in its current form. It was recognised that it would be of value to ensure all Councillors were aware of the contents of the Audit Commission Report and this Council's response.

The Sub-Committee concurred with the view of the Chairman that representatives of the Audit Commission should be invited to attend a meeting of Full Council to present the Housing Best Value report in public session. Given that the Authority would have advanced notice of when the Commission would be making its report public it was agreed that arrangements should be

put in place for the Council to issue its own press release capable of highlighting the inaccuracies within the Commission's report and emphasising both the Council's achievements and the high level of customer satisfaction with the Housing Services. It was observed that significant costings could be associated with the Audit Commission's recommendations and that the Commission should be asked to provide an indication of what these would be.

### **RECOMMENDED**

That representatives of the Audit Commission be invited to attend a meeting of Full Council to present the Housing Best Value report in public session.  
(CD (F&ES))

### **9 MATTERS ARISING FROM ADJOURNED MEETING – KEY WORKERS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Reference was made to the value of reaching conclusions on definitions/the Council's approach with regard to key worker and affordable housing.

Responding to Member questions, Officers advised that :-

- Information of the points allocation associated with key workers would be included in the future report to the Sub-Committee on the review of the allocations policy.
- Officers would make arrangements for an evening training session for all Members of the Council at which an external expert can assist with understanding the definitions of key worker and affordable housing. This would be arranged as soon as practicable (either July or early September) to facilitate Member input into the Draft Housing Strategy.

The reconvened Meeting commenced at 2.30 pm and closed at 4.55pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....