

REGENERATION, HOUSING AND SKILLS

A record of decisions made by the Executive Member with responsibility for Regeneration, Housing and Skills on:-

TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY, 2012

following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

Councillor Ibrahim	Executive Member for Regeneration, Housing and Skills
Councillor Cox	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor D. Wilkinson	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Mr. K. Davies	Director of Development and Regeneration
Mr. T. Hill	Chief Planning and Housing Officer
Mr. A. Heathcote	Private Sector Renewal Manager
Mr. J. Slater	Housing Strategy Manager (Community and Place)
Ms. C. Gore	Housing Strategy Manager (Policy and Research)
Mr. D. Shepherd	Senior Group Accountant
Mrs. V. Ridge	Principal Democratic Services Officer

52. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS

The Director of Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which contained monitoring information related to decisions taken at the Executive Member's previous meetings.

The Executive Member NOTED the progress on decisions previously taken, as detailed in the Appendix to these minutes.

53. HOME SOLUTIONS

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which advised the Executive Member of a proposal to develop a project entitled Home Solutions which aimed to improve housing services in Bolton to assist vulnerable people, mainly elderly, to remain living independently in their own home.

The Executive Member was informed that, as public sector resources reduced, there was a need to change the way services were delivered in Bolton.

The report detailed the current service provision in Bolton and outlined the way in which services needed to change to tackle the challenges ahead.

In terms of the development proposal, the project aimed to provide a single referral point for all services which assisted vulnerable people with making changes to their home which would ensure they could continue to live independently. It was explained that the Home Solutions model incorporated services that were currently delivered by the NHS, Bolton Council, Bolton at Home and the voluntary sector and it would be developed in partnership to ensure that the service aims were delivered.

The report outlined in detail how the project would operate and it was felt that the implementation of the project would allow real outcomes to be delivered based on the needs of each individual and not, as was now the case, the limitations of individual services.

With regard to the financial implications, the Executive Member was advised that the proposal was presented at the NHS Bolton's EPEC meeting who granted £100,000 pump priming funding. There was also £70,000 set aside in the Development and Regeneration budget to support this work. In addition there were a range of sustainable funding sources which currently delivered services to assist people to live independently in their own home.

The Executive Member APPROVED the development of the Home Solutions model on the basis, as detailed in the report, and utilising the NHS and Council funding identified to support this work.

**54. DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION
DEPARTMENT – FINANCIAL AND PERFORMANCE
REPORT 2011/2012 – QUARTER THREE**

A joint report of the Directors of Development and Regeneration and Corporate Resources was submitted which provided information relating to the financial and performance position for Development and Regeneration for the 2011/2012 financial year as at the end of Quarter Three.

The Executive Member was advised that the revenue expenditure for both Development and Regeneration and Housing Services was projected to underspend against the budget by £441,000 which included a contribution of reserves of £874,000. In terms of the capital programme, this amounted to £16,206,000 and the actual capital spend at the end of quarter three totalled £9,476,000.

The report also indicated that the Department's projected surplus reserve position as at 31st March, 2012 was £3.9 million and the budgeted efficiency savings for the department were £1,093,000 with the current projection being to fully achieve the options.

The Executive Member NOTED the report.

55. PROPOSED CHARGES FOR LOCAL SEARCHES

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which sought the Executive Member's approval for the proposed new charges for 2012/2013 for Property Search Services and Local Land Charge Services.

The Executive Member was reminded that, following the introduction of new regulations for Charges for Property Searches in December, 2008, the Council introduced new

charges in August, 2009 for both the Local Authority Search Service and the Official Search of the Land Charge Register. It was stated that the new charging model was based on the key principle that the data set was charged for on a cost recovery basis except where it was free statutory information.

The report stated that it was proposed for 2012/2013 that the charges remained the same as last year which would be as follows:-

- CON29R - £107;
- Optional questions - £15 each;
- Additional questions – £25 each;
- LLC1 Official Search - £23; and
- A full search - £130.

It was explained that by keeping the fees at the same level it would allow the local authority to compete for the market share. Furthermore, based on the assumption of a 10% increase in volume, keeping the charges the same as in 2011/2012 would meet the budgeted income target for 2012/2013 of £192,000.

The Executive Member APPROVED the proposal to keep the charges for Property Search Services and Local Land Charge Services at the same level as 2011/2012 for 2012/2013.

56. PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012/2013

The Director of Development and Regeneration submitted a report which put forward a proposed capital programme of activity for private sector housing renewal and improvement for 2012/2013.

By way of background, the Executive Member was reminded that the grant funding previously allocated to Bolton for private sector housing renewal works was withdrawn completely in 2010. Consequently, in 2011/2012 £2,555,000 was made available through Corporate Resources to continue the work.

With regard to the programme for 2012/2013, Corporate Resources totalling £1,498,000 had been allocated which also contained funding from reserves and external funding. The proposed Private Sector Housing Capital Programme for 2012/2013 was detailed as follows:-

	Corporate Resources	Reserves	Grant Allocation
Housing Renewal			
Pilot of new private sector renewal approach	600		
Union Road completion	400		250
Affordable Warmth	68	177	
Disabled Facilities Grant	250		1,114
Empty Dwellings	20		
Care and Repair	160		
Sub totals	1,498	177	1,364
Programme Total		3,039	

With regard to Bolton's allocation from the national Disabled Facilities Grant funding, the Executive Member was advised that this had yet to be confirmed, although, the Government had announced that it intended to increase funding in this area. Based on this it had been assumed that Bolton would be allocated the same as in 2011/2012 which was £1,114,000.

The Executive Member APPROVED the proposed Private Sector Housing Capital Programme for 2012/2013 as detailed in the report.