

**HOUSING MANAGEMENT SUB (COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES)**  
**COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, 23 May 2012**

**Minutes of the meeting of the HOUSING MANAGEMENT SUB (COMMUNITY  
AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES) COMMITTEE held at Guildhall, EC2 on  
WEDNESDAY, 23 MAY 2012 at 11.30 am**

**Present**

**Members:**

Deputy Billy Dove (Chairman)  
Virginia Rounding (Deputy Chairman)  
The Revd Dr Martin Dudley  
Alderman David Graves  
Deputy the Revd Stephen Haines  
Peter Leck  
Gareth Moore  
Angela Starling

**Officers:**

Caroline Webb	- Town Clerk's Department
Joy Hollister	- Director, Community and Children's Services
Jacquie Campbell	- Community and Children's Services
Carla Keegans	- Community and Children's Services
Karen Tarbox	- Community and Children's Services
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Tim Rhodes	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's
Bridget Fothergill	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Deputy Henry Jones and Antony Llewelyn-Davies.

**2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

Gareth Moore declared an interest as a tenant of the Golden Lane Estate.

**3. TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SUB COMMITTEE, AS AGREED AT THE 20 APRIL 2012 COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING (COPY ATTACHED)**

The Terms of Reference of the Sub Committee, as agreed at the 20 April 2012 Community & Children's Services Committee meeting were received.

**4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Sub Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 29. A list of Members eligible to stand was read and Deputy

Billy Dove being the only Member expressing a willingness to serve was duly elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

The Chairman thanked the Members of the Sub Committee for their support.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Sub Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 30. A list of Members eligible to stand was read and Virginia Rounding being the only Member expressing a willingness to serve was duly elected Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

6. **MINUTES**

The public minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2011 were approved.

**Matters Arising**

**Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Capital Budgets 2011/12 and 2012/13**

Members were informed that the final settlement figure to buy ourselves out of the Government's Housing Subsidy system was £10.912million.

7. **HOUSING PRESENTATION**

The Sub Committee received a presentation from Carla Keegans, Jacquie Campbell and Karen Tarbox outlining the three key priority areas for Housing, namely, responding to national reforms, technical services and estate services.

A number of questions were asked and the following points were noted:

Due to the new Welfare Reform Act, from April 2013, housing benefits would be paid directly to the tenant rather than the Housing Department. This could result in an increased level of rent arrears.

Any savings made within the HRA were legally ring fenced and would not be pooled with the City of London Corporation's savings and/or budgets. A report to clearly show where the savings had been spent would be produced and circulated to tenants as well as officers. There was a legal requirement to balance the HRA. There were various options to explore in terms of what the HRA surplus could be spent on in the future for the Sub Committee to consider at a later date.

If a vulnerable tenant were to fall in to rent arrears or face eviction, one of the tenant support officers would be assigned their case and work closely with the tenant and other outside agencies that may already support the tenant. If a tenant was evicted from one of the City of London housing estates situated in another borough, the borough in which they resided would become responsible for them.

We are shortly to inform all our tenants about changes to the legal Right to Buy scheme but will not be actively promoting it due to our small housing stock and

the corresponding negative effect on the HRA business plan that increased sales would bring.

Short term tenants were often reluctant to engage with the local community but investigation could take place in to an estate network for recycling of unwanted items and whether this would improve tenant relations. A good neighbour scheme was also proposed, to allow volunteers to assist with vulnerable neighbours.

**RECEIVED.**

**8. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

**9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were no urgent items.

**10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act as follows:-

Item No.	Exempt Paragraph(s) in Schedule 12A
11	3
12-13	-

**11. RESIDENTIAL UNITS ABOVE OLD SPITALFIELDS MARKET - RETENTION/DISPOSAL STRATEGY**

A report of the Director of Community and Children's Services was considered.

**12. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There was one non-public question.

**13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no non-public urgent items of business.

**The meeting ended at 12.55pm**

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Chairman

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