

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

**Thursday, 20 September 2012**

**Minutes of the meeting of the HOUSING MANAGEMENT SUB (COMMUNITY  
AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES) COMMITTEE held at Guildhall, EC2 on  
THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2012 at 1.45 pm**

**Present**

**Members:**

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

**Officers:**

Caroline Webb	- Town Clerk's Department
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Joy Hollister	- Director of Community & Children's Services
Eddie Stevens	- Community and Children's Services
Jacque Campbell	- Community and Children's Services
Carla Keegans	- Community and Children's Services
Mike Kettle	- Community and Children's Services

**In attendance:**

Sandra Brown	- Community and Children's Services
Tom Bush	- Community and Children's Services

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Anthony Llewelyn-Davies.

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

Deputy Henry Jones declared a personal interest as a leaseholder on the Middlesex Street Estate, and as a business leaseholder.

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

**3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

#### 4. **DRAFT REVISED ALLOCATIONS POLICY**

The Sub Committee considered a report and presentation of the Director of Community and Children's Services that presented Members with a revised draft Allocations Policy. A final revised policy is to be presented to the Sub Committee in November for approval.

Members were informed that the revised Allocations Policy would provide more freedom to decide who is to be allocated social housing within the City and revise the allocation criteria of the current 2006 policy.

Considerable debate followed the presentation and a number of points were raised, among which:-

- If the revised draft Allocations Policy was to be implemented immediately, 232 people (21%) on the City's housing register would be removed as they have no connection to the City but they would be accepted at another local authority where they do have a proven connection.
- Members were informed that the law would still set out groups of people to whom we must give 'reasonable preference' when allocating housing; this did not mean, however, that they would take priority all of the time.
- Every person on the housing register could be housed in any of the social housing properties owned by the City, including the nominations the City has to the Guinness Trust estate properties at Mansell Street.
- There may be a temporary increase in demand for housing advice by the Housing Department as any person on the housing register can appeal a decision made by the City.
- The implementation of new Allocations Policy would need to be managed effectively to minimise negative press.
- The Allocations Policy would be reviewed every three years.
- The Allocations Policy would apply to all HRA social housing properties owned by the City.
- The Director stressed the importance of communicating other options to those who may be placed on the housing register for a number of years, such as part/shared ownership options, other areas of housing within London and private landlords.
- Members accepted the importance of being realistic and upfront with tenants on the housing register on how long it could take to be allocated social housing within the City and the need to encourage them to look at other options.
- In regards to the 'Sons and Daughters of City of London tenants' qualifying category, if they were providing care to a relative then they would be given priority, potentially creating savings for the City in the long-term.
- Members were informed of the down-sizing payment policy and were assured that it was well publicised to tenants.
- The housing register list was reviewed once a year and those waiting were made aware that it was their responsibility to inform the City of changes in their circumstances.

- In regards to illegal sublets, all information received was acted upon with every case investigated and, where possible, prosecuted.

**RESOLVED:** That delegated authority be given to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to comment on and sign off the amended version of the draft Allocations Policy for public consultation, including via the City of London website.

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no urgent items.

**7. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

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

<b>Item Nos.</b>	<b>Exempt Paragraphs Paragraph(s) in Schedule 12A</b>
8 - 9	3
10 - 11	-

**Part 2 – Non-Public Agenda**

**8. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

**9. AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROVISION**

A report of the Director of Community and Children’s Services Committee was received.

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

There were no non-public questions.

**11. 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.

**The meeting ended at 2.50 pm**

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Chairman

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