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| REPORT TO EXECUTIVE | | | |
| PORTFOLIO AREA: Health and Well-Being | | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 17 th December 2001 | | |
| Public | | | |
| Key Decision: | No | Recorded in Forward Plan: | Yes |
| Inside Policy Framework | | | |

Title: Botcherby Estate Management Board

Report of: Director of Housing

Report reference: H119/01

Summary:

This report informs Members of the Executive of a decision of the Botcherby Estate Management Board to dissolve the society.

Recommendations:

To note the decision made by members of the BEMB Management Committee to terminate the Management Agreement with the Council and dissolve the society.

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2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1. Introduction

In 1994 the Carlisle City Council entered into a partnership arrangement with the BEMB under the umbrella of a management agreement, duly signed by both parties. This report sets out for Members information in relation to the Botcherby Estate Management Board (BEMB) and the potential future arrangements for tenant involvement on the Botcherby estate.

2. Tenant Involvement

For a number of years a healthy partnership has existed between residents of the Botcherby estate and the City Council. This relationship has in effect been conducted with two key groups on the estate, namely the BEMB and an associated member organisation, the Botcherby Residents Action Group (BRAG).

In recent years some concerns have been expressed by both groups in relation to the duplication of work and the need for both organisations to meet on a regular basis. These ongoing concerns resulted in a decision to appoint PEP North to consider rationalisation of the two groups.

Following the consultancy work conducted by PEP North in relation to the continuation of BEMB, in July 2001 a proposal was tabled that the group be dissolved and all business should be amalgamated in the work programme of Botcherby Residents Action Group (BRAG).

3. BEMB - Meeting

In consideration of the proposal to consolidate the efforts of volunteers working in the interests of the Botcherby community within one organisation, the remaining members of the Board at its meeting of 29th October 2001 unanimously agreed to terminate the Management Agreement with Carlisle City Council, as set out in Part 6 (para 6.3.1) of their rules and to dissolve the BEMB Society (Schedule 7 (para 55)).

In seeking to dissolve the Society the Members agreed that all assets of the Society should be transferred to BRAG, to ensure the said assets would be of benefit to the residents of the estate. It was identified that there were no financial assets held by the Society.

Members of the BEMB requested Council officers to inform Carlisle City Council of its decision and pass on their sincere thanks for the support provided by the Council and local Ward Councillors who, over a number of years, have endeavoured to assist the group in improving the quality of life for residents on the estate.

1.4 Botcherby Residents Action Group (BRAG)

The Action Plan that resulted from the PEP North consultancy work clearly outlined the need for BRAG to consider a partnership with the local authority to further promote the improvement of the estate.

Work is currently in hand to explore the potential of the establishment of an Estate Agreement, with BRAG seeking to attract the City Council as an active partner. It is envisaged that the evolution of such an agreement will come to a conclusion in

the summer of 2002, at which time the Council will be invited to further support the work of the group.

3. CONSULTATION

The proposals have been developed in consultation with residents from the Botcherby Estate facilitated by PEP North.

4. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS

Not applicable

5. CITY TREASURER'S COMMENTS

Not applicable.

6. LEGAL COMMENTS

The City Solicitor & Solicitor has been consulted but has no comments.

7. CORPORATE COMMENTS

Not applicable.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

Not applicable.

9. EQUALITY ISSUES

The demise of the BEMB may have negative consequences if it leads to a decline in direct community involvement in decision-making affecting the area. The proposal to develop an Estate Agreement with BRAG will have potentially major equality implications which need to be assessed at the time.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Executive are requested to note the following:

The decision made by members of the BEMB Management Committee to terminate the Management Agreement with the Council and dissolve the society.

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

As set out in 1.2 above.

T. Bramley
Director of Housing