

A15

HOUSING CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 2002 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT: The Executive Portfolio Holder for Health and Well Being:
Councillor Bloxham (Chairman)

Councillors Mrs Bowman, Farmer, Mrs Fisher, Hodgson B and
Joscelyne.

ALSO

PRESENT: Ms R Notman -Tenants' Advisory Group (TAG)
Mr D Thomas - City Treasurer
Mr D Hucker – Acting Director of Housing
Mrs L Dixon – Housing Transfer Project Officer
Mr D Steele – Accountancy Manager
Mrs M Durham - Committee Clerk

HCG.47/02 CONGRATULATIONS

The Chairman and Members congratulated Councillor Farmer on the
occasion of his birthday.

HCG.48/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

HCG.49/02 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2002 were submitted.

The Housing Transfer Project Officer made reference to Minute HCG.45/02
(Tenants' Advisory Group) which detailed concerns expressed regarding
membership of the TAG and the Shadow Board of CHA.

She advised that the matter had been discussed by the TAG the previous
week and, whilst those concerns may have been expressed on an individual
basis, they did not represent the collective view of the TAG. The TAG felt
that it was entirely appropriate for Members to attend meetings of the
Shadow Board, which decision had been minuted. In those circumstances
Members would continue to attend such meetings.

Subject to the above, the Minutes were received.

l.

21A

HCG.50/02 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE COUNCIL'S TRANSFER PREPARATIONS

The Acting Director of Housing presented a joint report with the City Treasurer (H.64/02) providing an update on progress made to date in the preparation of the draft Transfer Agreement which would enshrine the terms of the transfer of housing related assets to Carlisle Housing Association (CHA) and the future relationship between the City Council and the Association.

The Acting Director indicated that at present the terms being discussed could only be provisional since they required the formal consideration of the Executive. A full report setting out the key terms to be agreed with CHA would be brought to the Executive meeting on 17 October 2002. In addition, that report would detail the requirements of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in terms of the Council's application for consent to dispose of its housing stock by way of LSVT.

A public consultation exercise had been undertaken as regards the areas of open space to be transferred and plans detailing the exact locations, together with the housing schemes to be disposed of were now available for inspection by Members.

The Acting Director then outlined in detail those areas where provisional agreement had yet to be reached.

The City Treasurer commented that negotiations had been very open and intellectually honest, with both parties wishing to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution, which he felt had been achieved. The Chairman reiterated that point of view.

During discussion, a Member stated that he represented a Ward where the constituents were predominantly elderly or infirm people who were dependant upon the Careline Service. He asked if he could be provided with a copy of the final report as regards that Service.

The Acting Director indicated that, as he understood it, CHA were committed to the development of the Service. The out of hours service would continue and therefore tenants should be unaffected following 9 December 2002. He could let the Member have details in writing if he so wished.

The Housing Consultative Group noted progress being made.

[The meeting ended at 2.25 pm]