

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: HEALTH & WELL BEING

Date of Meeting: 28 October 2002

Public

Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan: No

Inside/Outside Policy Framework

Title: PETITION - RE HOUSING OF RESIDENTS OF JOHN STREET

Report of: Acting Director of Housing

Report reference: H065/02

Summary:

A petition has been received from Dowbeck Residents Action Group (DRAG), objecting to the re-housing of residents of John Street Hostel in flats situated on Stanhope Road, Dowbeck Road and Weardale Road.

The petitioners are also requesting the demolition of the existing empty flats in the area.

Recommendations:

In consideration of the issues set out in this report, Members of the Executive are requested to note the contents of the petition, acknowledging the concerns raised by local people and providing assurances to the petitioners that local consultation will be carried out at an appropriate stage in the process.

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2. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS**

1. A petition containing approximately 149 signatures was received on

27th September 2002 from Dowbeck Residents Action Group, outlining their concerns regarding the re-housing of residents from John Street Men's Hostel.

2. Earlier this year, the City Council embarked on a Best value Review of its strategic housing service. This had the twin aims of meeting Government requirements and ensuring that we are well placed to carry out our statutory duties after the stock transfer on 9 December 2002.

Although the majority of the housing stock will transfer to Carlisle Housing Association, the two hostels will stay in the Council's ownership for at least fifteen months.

The Council's Forward Plan provides for a report at this meeting on the Homelessness Service including Supported Housing accommodation. Key Decision reference KD.030/02.

1.3 Report (H66/02) The Development of Supported Housing – Homelessness and Special Needs, elsewhere on this agenda, will present a number of proposals in the delivery of supported accommodation for those individuals and families presenting as homeless in the Carlisle district, and options to further develop independent living choices for other vulnerable people.

2. INCIDENT ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2002

2.1 Once advised of the incident involving tablets found in the garden, an order was immediately placed to clear the garden.

3. CURRENT SITUATION.

1. As indicated in 1.3 above the Council has not yet decided on an appropriate management option for the delivery of accommodation solutions.
2. Once a firm decision is taken by the Executive in relation to the "type" of service to be offered to vulnerable people, including the homeless, a number of stages need to be embarked upon:
 - a. Officers will open discussions with Registered Social Landlords and Voluntary sector agencies to identify an appropriate management package to deliver such services;
 - b. Present the findings of these discussions to the Executive to consider proposals by potential partners and determine the most appropriate approach in the best interests of the clients and the authority.
 - c. Only at this stage will consideration be given to the identification of specific locations or accommodation units required to implement the service.
 1. At this point in the process, local residents/groups and Ward councillors will be consulted to consider locality issues.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 In consideration of the issues set out in this report, Members of the Executive are requested to note the contents of the petition, acknowledging the concerns raised by local people and providing assurances to the petitioners that local consultation will be carried out at an appropriate stage in the process.

David Hucker

Acting Director of Housing