



### HOUSING AND HEALTH ITEMS

1. **DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE PORTFOLIO-HOLDER**

I can report that in the period in question I have not taken any delegated decisions in respect of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Portfolio.

2. **ISSUES ARISING FROM HOUSING CONSULTATIVE GROUPS IN NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2001**

I draw Members' attention to four items in particular that were discussed at these meetings.

- The group discussed and agreed to recommend to the Executive a Communications Strategy which will govern and co-ordinate the work of the Council, Riverside and PEP in communicating with the public on LSVT issues.
- The Group also discussed and agreed to recommend to the Executive the definitive Project Plan for the final stages of the LSVT process. This will be used each month to monitor progress against the key tasks required to deliver the project.
- The Group commented upon an inaugural "Members' Briefing" on LSVT matters which it is intended to issue on a regular basis from now on to keep all Members advised of the key developments.
- Finally the Group was pleased to note the completion of recruitment to the Shadow Board of Carlisle Housing Association with the filling of the last two places for tenant representatives.

### 3. RELEVANT ISSUES ARISING FROM EXECUTIVE MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2001

I would draw Members' attention to four items in particular that were discussed at these meetings:

- The Executive discussed interim and final proposals to bring in fully-funded measures to ensure that the John Street Hostel would comply with the requirements of a recent HSE inspection thereby ensuring the best possible standards are maintained at this facility. Early in 2002 the Executive will receive a further report looking at the broader strategic options for hostel provision in the district as a whole, with a view to ensuring that both the quantity and type of provision is appropriate to meet future needs.
- In November the Executive agreed a range of measures arising out of a major update report on the Raffles Area Strategy. These included fully-funded proposals to support local community regeneration initiatives, encourage redevelopment and both expand and consult upon further phases of clearance in selected parts of the area.
- In December the Executive agreed a "Floating Support" scheme commissioned from a specialist provider to provide support to vulnerable Council tenants. A scheme which hopefully will help support Tenants in their properties and communities.
- In addition further progress has been made with regard to the City Council's role in Health and Wellbeing, with approval of a range of proposals by the Executive, including:
  - a programme that will enable us to determine and monitor the health of our residents in all 21 Wards in the district, including the rural areas, which are of particular importance at this current time;
  - a pilot Health Promoting Organisation initiative with partners in the health sector;
  - a Clinical Exercise Practitioner pilot scheme to promote healthier lifestyles for those with a variety of health problems (eg Cardiac Groups) and improve general well-being in our communities through exercise.
- Last but by no means least, also in December as part of the HRA budget discussions the Executive agreed the Council's first ever long term "Rent Plan" for consultation with all tenants. We have tried hard to make what is frankly a pretty complex subject as accessible as possible and I look forward to seeing tenants' responses to our proposals before we make any final decisions.

### 4. RAFFLES SRB

I am pleased to report that after so many difficulties in the past there is a real sense that the Raffles SRB Project is once again looking forward and actively

seeking to support valuable activities on the estate and engage in a number of meaningful partnership projects, potential schemes include:

- Advice and Information Services
- Environmental Projects
- Community Warden Initiative
- Employment Project, etc

While it is disappointing to note that the transfer of "accountable body" status to the City Council has still not taken place, this is now largely an administrative issue and does not detract from work of the project.

#### 5. **CUMBRIA SUB-REGIONAL HOUSING GROUP**

As the first Chairman of this Group I should report that after nearly 2 years in this position I have now handed responsibility over to Councillor Metz of Eden District Council. The group has made huge progress in its short existence in driving forward Cumbria's case in the increasingly important regional housing forum and I look forward to continuing to be Carlisle's nominee on the group.

#### 6. **PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT**

The Executive, at their meeting on 17 December, recommended in principle the areas of expenditure of the Private Sector renewal programme.

The Local Housing Condition Survey was commissioned by the Council. The information obtained from the survey will assist us in a more comprehensive way, future bids to Central Government. The Executive will have a detailed presentation at its meeting on 18 February of the survey. Private Sector Renewal will concentrate on the following issues:

- Unfitness
- Home repairs assistance
- Disabled facilities grants
- Housing in Multiple Occupation
- Area renewal
- Group repair

#### 7. **FOOD SAFETY REGULATIONS**

The Executive will be receiving a report on 28 January on the recent guidance/regulation from the food standards agency and the Health and Safety Executive on enforcement.

## 8. LEISURE SERVICES

It is with great pleasure that I can report that Mr Ken West has been awarded the MBE for his work in bereavement services. I am sure all Members would wish to congratulate him on his award.

The first meeting of the Leisure Consultative Group was held on 4 December to consider the Leisuretime competitive process. The second of these meetings is planned for 9 January.

The meeting was very successful and afforded the staff members the opportunity to be involved in the documentation. It enabled the other members to understand the practicalities in running a service of a multi-purpose nature. My thanks to all the staff for their help and advice into this process.