

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Friday, 15th September 2006, at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors P. M. McDonald (Chairman), Miss D. H. Campbell JP, Mrs. J. D. Luck and J. A. Ruck

Observers: Councillors Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., Mrs. M. A. Sherrey JP, Mrs. M. M. T. Taylor and P. J. Whittaker

40/06 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor C. B. Lanham.

41/06 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 21st August 2006 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

42.06 **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT HOUSING TRUST - ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT**

Consideration was given to the first annual monitoring report since Large Scale Voluntary Transfer took place in March 2004, reviewing the performance of Bromsgrove District Housing Trust (BDHT) in respect of three key issues, namely

- The progress made by BDHT in respect of promises made to tenants at the time of stock transfer;
- The contribution being made by BDHT in meeting the four key priorities set out in the Council's Housing Strategy 2006-2011; and
- Indicators of performance in managing homelessness and housing services for the Council under the Housing Agency Agreement.

Members raised a number of issues with Mr. A. Coel, the Council's Strategic Housing Manager, and Mr. M. Brown, Chief Executive of BDHT, who had been invited to attend the meeting for the consideration of this report. Clarification was sought over the number of units of accommodation to be provided as affordable housing units, and the Board were advised that the Council's aim was to provide 80 units over each of the next five years. A number of small developments were currently ongoing and, in response to a particular question as to how the Council might help improve performance targets, Mr. Brown stressed that it was of paramount importance that the Council should be more creative in identifying suitable pockets of useable land. Whereupon it was

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that, in order to help facilitate the provision of more affordable housing throughout the District, the Executive Cabinet, through the Planning Department, be called upon to work more closely with the various

- Housing Associations when discussing possible housing sites which are classified as Areas of Development Restraint; and
- (b) that, in all other respects, the report be noted.

(NOTE: Councillor J. A. Ruck declared a personal interest in the above matter as a member of the BDHT Board).

43/06

IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Consideration was given to the report on the Improvement Plan for July 2006. As with the previous item, members raised a number of issues, and particular concern was expressed over item 13.2 (Implementation of new Street Cleansing regime) where hire vehicles were used in the first instance until purchased vehicles became available - and, notwithstanding the explanations of the Head of Street Scene and Waste Management to the various questions put in this regard, it was

RECOMMENDED:

- (a) that the Executive Cabinet be requested to provide the Board with a resumé of what happened on this occasion and why, together with any lessons which may have been learned which might avoid this situation happening again in the future; and
- (b) that, in all other respects, the report be noted.

44/06

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION COVERAGE IN THE DISTRICT - EFFICIENCY

Mr. G. Rocke, Community Safety Manager, gave a brief verbal update on the efficiency of the CCTV cameras throughout the District and he, together with Ms. R. McAndrews, Operations Room Manager, answered Members questions. In essence, the current situation was as follows:-

- Four new cameras had recently gone live at Wythall, and were still under test
- New back-up system recently installed
- Plans to change some cameras at Rubery
- Negotiations currently under way with West Mercia Police to introduce automatic number plate recognition system
- Recently approached by Wyre Forest District Council to take on more monitoring of their cameras (in Bewdley and Stourport).

In conclusion, Members were informed of difficulties regularly experienced by the CCTV Operators when dealing with certain telephone calls due to complex legal implications and, in this regard, it was

RECOMMENDED that, in an attempt to clarify matters, the Executive Cabinet request the Head of Culture and Community Services to explore the possible introduction of a protocol for officers to report incidents directly to the CCTV Operations Room.

The Meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.

Chairman