

HOUSING AND TRANSITIONS PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

21 December 2011

The meeting commenced at 4.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Jonathan Brash (Housing and Transitions Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Nigel Johnson, Housing Services Manager
Karen Kelly, Housing Strategy Officer
Vicky Bosley, Democratic Services Officer

3. Empty Homes Pilot Scheme Eligibility Criteria *(Assistant Director of Regeneration and Planning)*

Type of decision

Non key

Purpose of report

To seek approval from Portfolio Holder to implement the revised eligibility criteria for the previously approved Empty Homes Pilot Scheme (Cabinet 01.08.2011).

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report provided details of the currently approved eligibility criteria and provided recommendations to revise the eligibility criteria.

The Portfolio Holder explained that he did not want to restrict scheme users and emphasised the importance of the openness and transparency of the scheme.

In addition to the recommendations, the Portfolio Holder proposed a 'public' register be kept by The Housing Services Manager, to record the interests of any elected member, employee or close relative who participated in the scheme.

The Portfolio Holder expressed the following needs:

1. To demonstrate to elected members, employees and close relatives that they should play no part whatsoever in the process. Further action would be taken if there was a failure to comply.
2. Applicants must disclose such interests at the time of applying. Failure to comply will result in the application not being processed.

The Housing Services Manger confirmed he will seek confirmation from the Legal Department regarding action against elected members, employees and relatives raised in point 2 above.

Decision

- I. That the eligibility criteria for the empty homes pilot scheme be refined to allow applications to be accepted from employees, elected members and their close relatives, providing they are eligible to apply.
- II. That elected members, employees and close relatives do not have any involvement in the application process and that applicants must disclose any such relationship at the time of applying.
- III. That a public register be kept by the Housing Services Manger, to record the interests of elected members, employees and close relatives in any applications for the scheme.

The meeting concluded at 4.05pm

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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