

A MEETING OF THE HOUSING BOARD

WAS HELD ON 18 JUNE 2008

The Mayor (Councillor Kimber) (ex-officio), Chairman of Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Smith)(ex-officio), Councillors Allen, Ms Ballard (P), Beavis (P), Bradley (P), Mrs Cully, Edwards (P), Geddes (P), Gill (Chairman)(P), Mrs Mudie (P) and Philpott.

Also in attendance: Deputy Tenant Representative – Ms Annie Barnes

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, notice had been received that Councillors Ward and Wright would replace Councillors Philpott and Mrs Cully respectively for this meeting.

5 APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of The Mayor (Councillor Kimber), the Chairman of Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Smith) and Councillors Allen, Mrs Cully and Philpott.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7 MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings held on 5 March and 15 May 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

8 DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

9 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

10 HOMELESSNESS GRANTS TO EXTERNAL BODIES 2008/09

The Board considered the report of the Housing Services Manager (a copy of which is attached in the Minute Book as Appendix 'A') which sought approval for grants and budgets to Gosport Citizens Advice Bureau, Accommodation Resource Centre and the Domestic Violence Alarm Scheme.

Members were advised that £20,000 was available in 2008/09 for grants to external bodies with the Council seeking to build and sustain capacity in the voluntary sector to prevent homelessness. The pressures on hostel accommodation and particularly the lack of 'move on' accommodation for 16 and 17 year olds who presented high needs were explained.

In answer to a Member's question regarding the lack of a grant request from the Housing Aid Centre (HAC), assurance was given that it had been established that a grant would not be requested. The deadline by which an application could be made was stipulated to HAC by officers and it was made clear to them that any grant request could not be considered after that deadline.

The system relating to the Domestic Violence Call Centre was explained and that it provided a valuable service through Fareham and Gosport Family Aid for a relatively low budget and was linked in for Police response if necessary.

RESOLVED: That the following grants/budgets be approved and funded by Homelessness Grant (unless otherwise stated):

- (i) Gosport Citizens Advice Bureau, debt service: £12,298.37 of which £3,000 be paid from Housing Revenue Account;
- (ii) Accommodation Resource Centre (Mediation and Homeless Education Service) £8,540.00;
- (iii) Domestic Violence Call Centre monitoring budget £461.00; and
- (iv) Domestic Violence (agent installation/removal budget) £1,700.00.

11 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

- (a) The Chairman and Members of the Housing Board expressed their thanks to Mrs Jill Wright for her hard work and service during the time she was a Member, and Chairman, of the Housing Board.
- (b) The Chairman and Members of the Housing Board conveyed their good wishes to Kim Carron, Housing Services Manager for a speedy and full recovery from her current illness.

The meeting commenced at 6pm and concluded at 6.10pm

CHAIRMAN