

**AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE HOUSING BOARD  
WAS HELD ON 14 OCTOBER 2009**

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (ex-officio), Chairman of Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Hook) (ex-officio) (P), Councillors Allen (P), Beavis (P), Mrs Cully (P), Edwards (P), Geddes (P), Gill (P), Hylands (P), Mrs Mitchell-Smith (P), Mrs Mudie and Philpott (Chairman) (P).

Also in attendance: Tenant Representative – Mrs Jan Carter

**16 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) and Councillor Mrs Mudie.

**17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**18 DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations.

**19 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

**PART II**

**20 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Housing Services Manager which requested the Board to make nominations to an *interim* panel in order to make recommendations to the Housing Services Manager for the allocation of funding towards specific environmental projects.

Members were advised that funding of £30,000 had been identified in the budget for 2009-2010 for environmental improvements.

Members considered the remit of the proposed Panel attached at Appendix A to the report of the Housing Services Manager. Members accepted the proposed remit but wished to draw attention to the fact that, whilst not having as their primary focus matters such as fencing and car parking, schemes carried out in the past had led to improvements in these areas whilst also improving the environment and security for residents.

It was proposed that the views of residents should be sought on a case by case basis as they may put forward good ideas for environmental improvements to their own area. Members considered that the Housing Forum would be a good vehicle for such discussions.

Nominations were sought for membership of the Panel on a 2:1:1 basis and Councillors Beavis, Mrs Cully, Philpott and Mrs Mitchell-Smith were proposed and seconded.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the Panel comprise Councillors Beavis, Mrs Cully, Philpott and Mrs Mitchell-Smith;
- b) the remit for the Panel as identified in Appendix A to the report of the Housing Services Manager be agreed; and
- c) Officers present a report to a later Housing Board on future options on the re-constitution of the Environmental Improvements Panel.

## **21 COUNCIL HOUSING FINANCE REFORM**

Consideration was given to the report of the Housing Services Manager which considered the Government's consultation paper issued at the end of July 2009 and this Council's response to that paper.

Members were advised of amendments to the outline responses to consultation questions detailed on page 6/10 of the report of the Housing Services Manager:

Response 1) – the paragraph number should read 3.2.8;

Response 4) – this should have two responses:-

- 4a) – Yes, agree with the direction of travel.
- 4b) – No other recommendations.

Members were of the opinion that the present Housing Revenue Account subsidy was not beneficial to Gosport Borough Council who currently pay into the national pot. It appeared that the three main political parties in Westminster were in general agreement about the need for change and so if there were to be a change in Government, it was still likely that the current proposals would be implemented.

Officers advised Members of the parameters within which they had calculated the Council's financial commitment to the proposed changes to the way in which Government financial support for Council housing would be made. The proposal would make financial planning easier as, at present, the level of Government subsidy changed from year to year. In principle, Members welcomed these proposed changes. However, they urged caution until more concrete figures were available, particularly the percentage of interest to be charged on outstanding loans.

Officers advised that on the current consultation paper it would appear to be necessary for the rents charged by Gosport Borough Council to match the Government guideline rent level by the time the changes were introduced in order for the Council to meet its financial commitments.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) the contents of the report be noted; and
- b) it be agreed that officers respond to the consultation paper as per the responses

Housing Board  
14 October 2009

to consultation questions, as amended, contained in the report of the Housing Services Manager.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 6.46 pm.

CHAIRMAN