

SPECIAL HOUSING SERVICES COMMITTEE

11TH APRIL 2005

PRESENT	Councillor Gale (Chair) Councillors Mrs Brown, Grogan, Kay, Stonehouse, Mrs Todd and David Wilson.
ALSO PRESENT	Councillors Clements and Mrs Jones (ex- officio) together with R. Curtis and Mrs E. Stobbs, Customer Panel.
APOLOGIES	Councillors Mrs Burn, Mrs Seabury and Taylor.
ADVISERS	M. Laing, Director of Housing Services; Mrs M Roe, Service Development Manager; Mrs A Foster, Personnel and Training Officer and Mrs H Wilson, Committee Administrator.

481. APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY NOMINEES TO THE ALMO BOARD

Members considered the process of appointing local authority nominees to the shadow ALMO Board, which would be undertaken once the announcement of the successful ALMO applications was made in May 2005.

In response to Councillor Stonehouse the Service Development Manager advised that it was within the remit of the Council to decide whether or not to pay ALMO Board members, however, once the ALMO was running itself alone it would be a matter for the Board members to decide.

She then went onto clarify the position regarding the political balance which would be 3 Labour members and one member each from the Liberal Democrats and Independent Group.

In response to Councillor Grogan the Director explained that for the first year the ALMO would buy services from the Council which included Human Resources, after that initial period it would be decided by the Board whether to remain with the Council or to find other suppliers.

RECOMMENDED 1. that the proposed process for the appointment of the Council nominated

shadow ALMO Board members, as detailed in the report, be agreed;

2. that the local authority nominations for shadow Board membership be made at the Annual Meeting of the Council.

482. APPOINTMENT OF TENANT ALMO BOARD MEMBERS

Members considered the process of appointing tenants to the shadow ALMO Board which would be undertaken once the announcement of successful ALMO applications was made in May 2005.

In response to Councillor Kay the Service Development Manager advised that an interview process had initially been considered, however, after lengthy consultations the Customer Panel had opted for the election process. She advised that recruitment packs would be provided for tenants who expressed interest in the positions.

The Director advised Councillor Grogan that it would be difficult to limit areas to appointing a specified number of representatives. It would not be conducive to the Board if a representative was not appointed purely because of the area in which they lived.

Councillor Mrs Todd believed that to ensure fairness in the initial stages of selection by the Customer Panel it would be necessary that a certain amount of anonymity be maintained. The Director advised that the procedure currently used in the appointments of officers to the council would be undertaken.

RECOMMENDED that the proposed process for the appointment of tenant board members as detailed in the report be agreed.

RESOLVED that under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined under paragraphs 1, 7, 8 & 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

483. REQUEST FOR EARLY RETIREMENT

Members considered a request for early retirement from a customers services assistant within the Housing Directorate.

In response to Councillor Kay the Personnel and Training Officer explained that the rule of 85 required the age of the officer plus the years of contributory service to add up to 85.

Councillor Grogan moved that early retirement be approved, this was seconded by Councillor Mrs Todd.

RECOMMENDED that the request for early retirement be approved.

484. RE-ROOFING PROJECT AT WOODHOUSE CLOSE ESTATE

Members considered the suspension of the relevant Standing Order in appointing a contractor to undertake re-roofing works.

The Leader of the Council had noticed the problem at Woodhouse Close Estate and believed the proposals would be the best course of action.

Councillor Kay was delighted to see the report was believed the proposals made absolute sense.

In response to Councillor Mrs Todd the Director advised that the Capital Programme would not be affected.

RECOMMENDED

1. that it be agreed that resources be diverted away from the seven year programme towards the identified emergency works;
2. that Standing Order 8.1 be agreed;
3. that it be agreed that Abercorn Limited be appointed to undertake the work.

The meeting concluded at 17.43

CHAIR