

EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Communities Overview Committee held at Knowle, Sidmouth on 6 October 2004

Present:

Councillors:

Mrs P A Stott (Chairman)
R C Peachey (Vice-Chairman)

Miss V Ash
D J Cox
Mrs P A Graham
Mrs M L Hardy

Mrs A E Liverton
T G Reeves
Mrs B O Taylor
Mrs E E Wragg

Also Present:

Councillor A T Moulding

Apologies:

Councillors:

Mrs C E Drew
Miss J M Elson
H J Jeffery
P C Townsend

The meeting started at 6.30pm and ended at 8.35 pm.

*13 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Overview Committee held on 7 July 2004, were confirmed and signed as a true record.

14 **Report of the Playing Pitches Task and Finish Forum**

Consideration was given to the report of the Playing Pitches Task and Finish Forum to accompany the recommendations contained in the draft Playing Pitches Strategy for East Devon prepared by Independent Consultants.

Exmouth Members expressed some concern that the St John's playing field, Exmouth was not going to be developed, but it was explained that this was due to problems with drainage on the playing field.

RECOMMENDED that the Executive Board accept the report of the Task and Finish Forum and adopt the Playing Pitch Strategy for East Devon.

15 **Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Environmental Health & Health Equalities outlining the principal aims and priorities, and an action plan for the Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy. He explained that he was seeking guidance from Members on how to proceed on this issue and the following points were made during the course of the discussion:

Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy (Cont)

- that the possible equity release scheme should be thoroughly investigated and concerns expressed by Members over whether a local authority should take on this function be taken on board;
- Members were comfortable with housing assistance being provided in the form of a loan set against the property;
- the criteria for assisting older people through grant aid should be toughened up and attempts should be made to secure funding through Devon County Social Services;
- Members expressed their concern that, in some cases, mandatory grants for disabled facilities were being abused, and hoped to see the administration of the mandatory grant system for disabled facilities being made more robust to avoid potential abuses of the system;
- that the Council should follow the idea of intervention through an advisory role;
- that the idea of the setting up and managing a dedicated regeneration team be removed from any future Private sector housing renewal strategy document.

During the discussion on the above the issues, Members also noted that they would wish to discuss at a future meeting, 'Under Occupation' and 'Capital Release' in the Council's public sector housing

RECOMMENDED that, subject to the above, the aims and priorities of, and action plan for, the Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy be agreed.

***16 Quarterly Monitoring of Performance – First Quarter 2004/05**

Members noted the report of the Policy Officer in respect of performance and proposed remedial action against key performance indicators for the first quarter of 2004, under the control of the Communities Overview Committee.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

***17 Travel & Transport Task & Finish Forum**

Consideration was given to the interim report of the Travel & Transport Task & Finish Forum.

Members noted that the Council's role with regard to transport in East Devon was one of community leader. The authority could work with Devon County Council to discuss and identify specific needs. It was accepted that once the final report of this Task and Finish Forum had been produced, then its results needed to be widely spread across all of the District Council's operations.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

Chairman Date.....