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| Item No. 7 | Classification: OPEN | Date: 2 September 2003 | MEETING NAME Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee |
| Report title: | | Best Value Review of Housing Management: Support for Resident Involvement & The Tenant Fund – Draft Vision Document | |
| Ward(s) or groups affected: | | All | |
| From: | | Head of Scrutiny | |

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Members receive the following information in relation to the Draft Vision document at this meeting, i.e.:-
 - Feedback from the Council's consultation event held on 19 July 2003;
 - Feedback from consultation with Neighbourhood Housing Forums;
 - The comments of Tenant Council [1 September 2003];
 - Additional information requested at the last meeting on the detail of the Draft Vision document.
2. That Members agree whether to make recommendations to the Executive meeting on 9 September 2003, taking into account noted points of concern as set out in paragraph 5 of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. This is the second session at which Members will consider the joint Draft Vision document for the BVR Housing Management - Support for Resident Involvement & the Tenant Fund.
4. On 28 July 2003 the joint Draft Vision document "Support for Resident Involvement and The Tenant Fund", was presented together with a report to the Executive recommending the Tenant Fund budget allocations for 2003/04.
5. Members heard evidence from the Acting Head of Housing Management, Strategic Project Manager [Housing] and the Principal Housing Community Development Officer, requested further information about the details of the document and made the following immediate comments for further discussion during scrutiny, i.e.

a) *"Members were concerned about where and how funding decisions would be taken under the proposed new structures. Members asked officers to bring back further information on this;*

b) *Members were concerned about what mechanisms would be in place for allocation of funding to the various elements of the new structure, i.e. for tenant participation, supporting the federated body and for paid workers;*

c) *Members noted the comments made in respect of possible disempowerment of the Tenants Movement should the proposals be agreed. Members to further discuss whether proposed new structures might need to be fully independent of the Council.*

d) *Members were minded to recommend that the Tenants Fund budget remain ringfenced;*

e) *Members were concerned about whether a conflict of interest might arise from the appointment of workers with responsibility for working in tenant community development whilst reporting to Housing Management. Members asked for further clarification of these proposed new roles/posts when available, to inform discussion on this matter;*

f) *Members were minded to recommend that Resident Officers should be appointed on a permanent basis, to provide continuity of function for the community development role in particular;*

g) *Members were minded to recommend the development of relevant and measurable Performance Indicators to facilitate assessment of the inclusiveness of the new resident involvement structures”.*

6. At the date of the last scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting, the Draft Vision document was out to consultation with the authority's 17 neighbourhood offices. It is anticipated that by the date of this current meeting Tenant Council will have met to receive this feedback.
7. Following Tenant Council's anticipated special meeting on 1 September 2003 to receive comments from neighbourhood forums and feedback on the 19 July 2003 consultation event, the Executive on 9 September 2003 is scheduled to consider the final vision for the Tenant Fund and support for resident involvement.
8. In addition to the consultation feedback, the Sub-Committee requested the following information from officers at the last session, i.e.
 - *Further clarification of the proposed new Resident Officer roles/posts;*
 - *Further clarification of the proposed voluntary contributions from leaseholders [officers advised of an anticipated report to Leaseholder Council].*
9. Information to the Sub-Committee in respect of alleged counter-publicity to the Council's consultation event held on 19th July 2003 was circulated to Members on 7 August 2003.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Agenda Papers & Minutes: Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee [28 July 2003].

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