

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date:	MEETING NAME Executive
Report title:		Call-in request: Best Value Review of Housing Management (Final Vision)	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Overview & Scrutiny Committee	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Committee re-consider its decision taken on 3rd December 2002 in respect of the Final Vision for the Housing Management Service, taking into account the particular concerns of Overview & Scrutiny Committee as set out in paragraph [insert] of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. On 3rd December 2002 the Executive considered a report on the final Vision and Action Plan for the Housing Management Service "Vision for the Future". A copy of the original Executive report is attached at Appendix A.
3. The Executive resolved as follows, i.e.
 1. *"That the final Vision and Action Plan for the Housing Management Scheme as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.*
 2. *That option 4 be supported, which includes proposals for a reduction in the number of Neighbourhoods to a smaller number of Areas as outlined in Appendix K to the report. A further report, on the number and boundaries for areas to be adopted, will be submitted to the Executive during the implementation phase of the review.*
 3. *That the proposals for developing the support for tenant and resident involvement as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report be agreed. The outcome of this review be reported alongside the review of the Tenants Fund due to report in early 2003 (as set out in paragraph 6 and 7 of the report)."*
4. On 9 December 2002 the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Kim Humphreys, and three members of the Committee (Councillors Aubyn Graham, Barrie Hargrove and Andy Simmons) requested a call-in of this decision.
5. The reason given for the call-in was as follows, i.e.:

"Need to scrutinise the consultation on the Final Vision (in contrast to the consultation on the current service) following concerns raised by tenants and residents".

6. On 18th December 2002 Overview and Scrutiny Committee met to consider the call-in request. Councillor Bassom – Executive Member with portfolio for Housing was present at this meeting. In addition, Members received additional background information from officers and heard deputations from both Southwark Group of Tenants' Organisations and Mr Richard Lee. Appendix B contains the Agenda papers for this meeting.
7. The Borough Solicitor had confirmed that the original Executive decision giving rise to the call-in request was not contrary to the policy framework and accorded with the budget.
8. Having considered the decision and the above advice, Overview & Scrutiny Committee remained concerned and agreed to refer the decision back to the Executive for reconsideration with its concerns being outlined within the following resolutions, i.e.
 1. *“That the Best Value Review of Housing Management (Final Vision) be referred back to the Executive for reconsideration.*
 2. *That the Executive take into account the following particular concerns of Overview & Scrutiny Committee, i.e.*
 - (a) *That tenants and residents associations be clearly advised that formal consultation on the implementation phase of the Best Value Review of Housing Management will be undertaken. This should be fully explained by Housing Management through active engagement with stakeholders.*
 - (b) *That the important role of neighbourhood sub-offices within Option 4 of the Best Value Review in providing opportunities for tenants and residents to discuss matters in person be acknowledged. Overview & Scrutiny Committee recommends that the option of sub-offices be actively pursued in the implementation stage of the BVR where appropriate.*
 - (c) *That the Executive be asked to formulate proposals for improvement of consultation and engagement with stakeholders in future.*
 - (d) *That detailed consultation on the implementation phase of the review be undertaken on the basis of the Tenant Participation Compact. That information should go to individual tenants and residents and tenants' and residents' associations.*
9. In accordance with Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rule 19.4 the matter stands referred to the Executive for reconsideration.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

10. Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rule 19.5 requires that decisions referred back to the decision making body be considered within seven clear days of the date on which the decision to refer back was taken, i.e. 18th December 2002. If the Monitoring Officer or Chief Financial Officer determines that the decision falls within the budgetary and policy framework, the decision-making body may amend its decision (or not), before adopting the final decision.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. In line with advice previously given on the matter the Borough Solicitor & Secretary has confirmed that the decision taken by the Executive on 3rd December 29003 was in accord with the budget and policy framework.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Council Procedure Rules & Scrutiny Procedure Rules	Constitutional Support Unit, 3 rd Floor, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Ian Millichap (Executive) T: 0207 525 7225 Shelley Burke (Scrutiny) T: 0207 525 7344
Executive Committee: Agenda, Background Papers and Minutes	Constitutional Support Unit, 3 rd Floor, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Paula Thornton T: 0207 525 4395
Overview & Scrutiny Committee: Agenda, Background Papers and Minutes	Constitutional Support Unit, 3 rd Floor, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Lucas Lundgren T: 0207 525 7224

Audit Trail

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CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	Yes
Chief Finance Officer	No	No
Executive Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services		