

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
HOUSING DECISION PROCEDURES SCRUTINY PANEL

10.00AM – 4 NOVEMBER 2005

BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Giebeler (Chair), Councillors Davidson, Edmond-Smith, Older and Taylor.

Also present: Councillors Allen, Hazelgrove and Watkins.

PART ONE

ACTION

7. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

7A. Declarations of Substitutes

7.1 Substitutes are not allowed on scrutiny panels

7B. Declarations of Interest

7.2 The meeting clarified that Housing and Housing Management Sub-Committee Chairs, Deputy Chairs and Members had a prejudicial interest in the scrutiny review as having been involved in the decision-making on a matter that was the subject of the scrutiny review.

7.3 It was noted that, under the Code of Conduct, there was provision for Members with a prejudicial interest to stay to give evidence and answer questions relating to the decisions and actions which were being scrutinised. However once they had done this, the Code required them to leave the meeting and it was not permissible to remain, for example as a spectator in the public area.

7.4 Councillors Allen, Watkins & Hazelgrove all declared prejudicial interests due to their membership of the Housing Committee at the material time. The Panel indicated that it would be happy to hear further evidence from Councillor Hazelgrove and, as all three witnesses had confirmed that they were willing, it was agreed that they would all remain to give evidence jointly.

7C. Exclusion of Press and Public

7.5 The Panel considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to

whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

7.6 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any of the items on the agenda.

8. MINUTES

8.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 28 October would be made available as soon as possible.

MvB

9. TO HEAR INFORMATION FROM COUNCILLOR KEVIN ALLEN

9.1 Notes of Councillor Allen's information circulated separately.

9.2 **RESOLVED** – that the information be noted.

10. TO RECEIVE OTHER INFORMATION

10.1 The Panel noted a copy of an e-mail dated 4th January from Mary Marshall updating the position on gap referred to by Councillor Hazelgrove at 28th October Panel meeting (para 16 refers).

10.2 **RESOLVED** – that the information be noted.

11. TO IDENTIFY INFORMATION GAPS, FURTHER INVITEES

11.1 Further information requested:

- Minutes of the officer group meetings with GOSE/ODPM
- Correspondence between GOSE/ODPM and Council Officers and Members from October 2004 – January 2005
- Minutes of meeting between Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Mayor on 20th January.

12. DATE AND CONTRIBUTORS TO NEXT MEETINGS

12.1 Friday, 11 November, 10am, Hove Town Hall, Room 1
Meeting cancelled

12.2 Monday, 21 November, 4.30pm, Brighton Town Hall, Ante-Room
Tenant Representative from Evaluation Panel
Senior Council Officers

12.3 Friday, 2 December, 10am, Hove Town Hall, Room 3
GOSE representative
Former Mayor
Signatory to scrutiny request, Councillor Randall

12.4 Friday 9th December, 10am Brighton Town Hall

Signatory to scrutiny request, Councillor Mears
Leader of Council
Area Housing Management Panel Member, Councillor
Pennington

The meeting concluded at 11.45 am

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2005