

Urgent items – Social Housing Grant, item 12

Request to Full Council, 20th October 2009

At the last Community and Housing Committee on 17th September, Officers were asked to investigate the possibility of the Council bidding for Social Housing Grant to build 5 bungalows at Holloway Crescent. These properties would stay in the Council's ownership rather than working in partnership with a Housing Association who would then manage the properties.

Work has progressed quickly as a bid has to be submitted to the Homes and Communities Agency by 30th October.

A Pre Qualification Questionnaire has to be completed alongside a bid for grant which is being carried out jointly with East Thames Housing Group who are helping us pull together the detailed bid for funding. This work is being completed by them at risk until the Homes and Communities Agency has confirmed funding.

All bids for funding have to be made using an online system called the Investment Management System (IMS) and grant payments will also be made to the Council from this system.

The following officers have to be authorised by resolution of the Council to apply for social housing grant using the Investment Management System acting under delegated powers.

John Mitchell
Roger Harborough
Suzanna Wood

A form had to be completed and submitted to the Homes and Communities Agency by Friday 16th October so approval is being asked for retrospectively. Without the approval of the Council, officers cannot progress with the bid for funding which has to be made by 30th October and the redevelopment of phase 1 of Holloway Crescent will be considerably delayed.

Recommendation

Approval is granted retrospectively for the submission of a form to the Homes and Communities Agency and that the officers named above be granted authority to apply for social housing grant.