

DECISION LIST

HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING – 4 NOVEMBER 2004

AGENDA ITEM NO.	ITEM	DECISION	REASON	OFFICER
4	Under Occupation and Incentives – progress report	RESOLVED that the progress report be noted and that no further action to deal with under-occupation needed to be taken as the Council would continue to concentrate its efforts on providing quality sheltered housing accommodation with a view to encouraging transfers to take place within the existing housing stock.	It was apparent to Members that the problem of under-occupation was less serious than had been thought to be the case and that many tenants requiring help to move to smaller accommodation could be assisted within the context of existing housing provision.	EP
5	Homelessness Activity	RESOLVED that the report be noted.	The Committee was pleased to note that homelessness activity had diminished in the April to September period. This was due, in part, to the preventative measures now in place but there was a recognition that homelessness pressures might increase as a result of less favourable economic trends.	EP
6	Private Sector House Condition Survey	RESOLVED that a private sector house condition survey be carried out during the financial year 2005/06 and that the officers prepare a brief for consideration prior to the tender invitation process.	Members wished to consider tendering on the basis of value from a fixed sum rather than on a competitive price basis and the officers brief would be prepared to take account of this and the other available options.	WC
7	Environmental Health	RESOLVED that those aspects of the	This was agreed as part of the process of	WC/GS

	Best Value Review	draft Improvement Plan relevant to the Committee be approved for inclusion in the Service Plan.	delivering the Best Value Review of Environmental Health.	
8	Rent Deposit Scheme	RESOLVED that the Resources Committee be recommended to budget a sum of £25,000 for a Rent Deposit Scheme in 2005/06, subject to approval of the scheme to be adopted at a future meeting.	It is considered that the introduction of a rent deposit scheme is necessary to help the Council provide advice and assistance to homeless people, whether statutory or otherwise, in accordance with the Homelessness strategy, one key objective of which is to reduce the use of bed and breakfast accommodation.	JS
9	Flat at Leaden Roding	RESOLVED that officers be asked to explore various options for the future use of a flat at Leaden Roding, including the leasehold or freehold disposal of the flat, or its use on a temporary letting basis, and report back with recommendations in due course.	The Committee recognised that there were a number of options for dealing with this general needs flat, which was situated in a block of four together with two leaseholders and one housing association tenant.	RC
10	Service Plans, Budget and Council Priorities 2005/06	RESOLVED that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 the revised 2004/05 budget and the draft 2005/06 budget be approved and submitted to the Resources Committee; 2 the elements of the draft Service Plans, as far as they relate to this Committee's activities, be approved, for consideration by the Resources Committee, subject to minor amendments as agreed at 	As part of the budget making process. Members were concerned about the cost of operating services at Stansted Airport, especially in the context of the net reduction in income for the border inspection facility following the transfer of responsibilities to HM Customs and Excise.	PO'D/DB/RC

		<p>the meeting;</p> <p>3 the prioritisation analysis contained in appendix 3 to the report be noted without particular comment at this stage; and</p> <p>4 a report back be made to Members seeking to identify the full costs to the environmental health service arising from the location within the Council's district of a major international airport at Stansted, with a view to appropriate representations being made to the Government.</p>		
11	Draft Capital Programme 2005/06	RESOLVED that the draft capital programme be noted for consideration by the Resources Committee	As part of the process of approving the capital programme for 2005/06.	NH