

**HOUSING INITIATIVE TASK GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 10.00 am on 9 JUNE 2008**

Present:- Councillor R H Chamberlain – Chairman.
Councillors E W Hicks, J E Hudson and D J Morson.

Also present: Councillor S Barker.

Tenant Forum representatives: Mrs E Rogers and Mr S Sproul.

Officers in attendance: S Clarke (Housing and Planning Policy Manager), Helen Joy (Tenant Participation Officer), R Millership (Head of Housing Management), Liz Petrie (Housing Management Manager), C Roberts (Democratic Services Officer) S Robinson (Housing Enabling and Development Officer) and Judith Snares (Housing Options/Homelessness Manager).

HTG1 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E L Bellingham-Smith and J E Menell.

HTG2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 2008 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

HTG3 HOLLOWAY CRESCENT, LEADEN RODING

The Chairman of the Task Group Councillor Chamberlain reminded the meeting that the Groups intention was to identify a preferred option to bring to Committee, to be approved in principle and finally endorsed by the Community Committee in September.

Three Housing Associations were in attendance to give presentations, and it was agreed that the Task Group would hear each presentation in turn in order to select an option to go forward to Committee. The Group also agreed to question each Housing Association about their focus upon tenants' interests including decanting arrangements, their intentions regarding "The Green", and their proposals for meeting the needs of private residents.

The three presentations were heard. Members also asked questions about the track record of each organisation, both in housing provision and in resident satisfaction, and about the way they could deal with an access problem at the site.

RECOMMENDED to the Community Committee that:

1. the Swan Housing Association's submission for the whole site appears to the Task Group to be the best option in this matter.
2. subject to the approval of the Community Committee arrangements be made for a day on which consultation

meetings will be held with the residents of Holloway Crescent and the Housing Association to receive the responses of residents, and that the matter be returned to the Community Committee for a final decision at its meeting in September.

HTG4 **DRAFT HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY**

The Group considered the Draft Homelessness Strategy which had been circulated with the agenda.

Judith Snares, the Housing Options/Homelessness Manager, reminded Members that the Strategy had to be published in July as a finished document.

The Chairman of the Group suggested that whilst the Strategy could be recommended to the Community Committee for approval in principle, it would nevertheless be valuable for the Task Group Members and officers to have a further informative discussion to support full understanding of this substantial Document.

RESOLVED that:

1. the Draft Homelessness Strategy be recommended to the Community Committee for approval in principle.
2. that a meeting of the Task Group be arranged for 7 July 2008 to continue informative discussion of the Strategy.

(Councillor D Morson gave his apologies for absence from this meeting).

HTG5 **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Head of Housing Management informed the Group about items being presented to the Community Committee on the Audit Commissions Action Plan and on annual review of costs for Lifeline and a new charging policy being proposed for this service following best value review.

The Chairman informed the Group that a meeting had been granted for the Council to talk to a Government group called "Waverley" about its negative housing subsidy concerns.

The meeting ended at 12.25 pm.