



DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL DECISION BY THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

TOPIC – ALLOCATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING GRANT TO HYDE HOUSING ASSOCIATION FOR PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AT MOUNTAIN ASH, OTTERBOURNE

PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 4, Section 22 of the Council's Constitution provides for a decision to be made by an individual member of Cabinet.

In accordance with the Procedure Rules, the Corporate Director (Governance), the Chief Executive and the Head of Finance are consulted together with Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Principal Scrutiny Committee and all Members of the relevant Scrutiny Panel (individual Ward Members are consulted separately where appropriate). In addition, all Members are notified.

Five or more of these consulted Members can require that the matter be referred to Cabinet for determination.

If you wish to make representation on this proposed Decision please contact the relevant Portfolio Holder and the following Committee Administrator by 5.00pm on Friday 29 February 2008.

Contact Officers:

Case Officer: Simon Maggs, Tel: 01962 848 203, Email: smaggs@winchester.gov.uk

Committee Administrator:

Frances Maloney, Tel: 01962 848 155, Email: fmaloney@winchester.gov.uk

SUMMARY

In 2004 it was informally indicated that the Council would provide financial support in the form of social housing grant to Hyde Housing Association (now Hyde Martlett), one of the Council's partner Registered Social Landlords, to construct affordable housing at the above site. This was indication was given subject to resources being available in the Council's Affordable Housing Capital Programme and formal approval by members.

Hyde subsequently completed a scheme of 27 units, of which 14 are affordable (a mix of 7 no. 1 bed and 7 no. 2 bed shared ownership properties). All affordable homes have been completed and are now occupied. By Hyde developing all of the homes it has been possible to achieve a higher than usual proportion of affordable homes (52% rather than the usual 30%).

Since the commencement of development Hyde Martlett have been able to use some alternative funding which reduces the amount they would wish to receive from the Council from £700,000 to £466,000. They appreciate there are currently insufficient resources in the

Council's Affordable Housing Capital Programme to formally commit to fully supporting this scheme, however they have asked that a payment of £45,000 be made.

It is likely that Hyde Martlett will seek further support to fund the scheme in the future up to the level set out above. Members will need to consider such a request on its merits at that time.

The provision of affordable housing supports the Corporate Strategy Objectives of *Economic Prosperity, High Quality Environment, and Safe and Strong Communities*.

PROPOSED DECISION

1. A social housing grant of £45,000 to be made to Hyde Martlett Housing Association to support the aforementioned scheme.

REASON FOR THE PROPOSED DECISION AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The funding is required to support the provision of affordable housing.

The alternative is to not provide funding. In this particular case, given the investment that Hyde have already made, this would prejudice the future funding of affordable housing schemes by that organisation and consequently the provision of additional affordable housing in the future.

FURTHER ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF THE DRAFT PORTFOLIO HOLDER DECISION NOTICE

N/A

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS BY THE DECISION MAKER OR A MEMBER OR OFFICER CONSULTED

None

DISPENSATION GRANTED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

N/A

Approved by: (signature)

Date of Decision

Councillor Tony Coates – Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities