

**REPORT OF HOUSING
PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW PANEL**

(Meeting held 6 December 2000)

1. THE ROLE OF SCRUTINY IN BEST VALUE (REPORT B) (MINUTE NO. 8)

The Panel received a detailed report on the Best Value Review process and the roles for members of the Panel.

It was agreed that the following members should be appointed to take the lead, on behalf of the Panel, in the Year 2 service reviews listed below:-

Housing Development – Cllrs Kidman and Shand
Health Strategy – Cllr Richardson, plus 1 Conservative Member
Housing Needs – Cllrs Holding and Humber

2. MAJOR POLICY ISSUES (REPORT C) (MINUTE NO. 9)

The Panel noted the provisional programme of major policy reviews that the Advisory Cabinet and Policy and Resources Committee had agreed should form the basis of their work programmes during the trial period until May 2001.

They particularly noted that the Portfolio Holder's brief included health issues and that these ought not to be overlooked in the future or be overshadowed by housing issues.

3. PROGRAMMED SERVICE REVIEWS (REPORT D) (MINUTE NO. 10)

The Panel gave initial consideration to the service reviews which they might wish to undertake in the coming months.

Members suggested the following items which could usefully be reviewed:-

- Tenant participation;
- Housing Association partnerships;
- Strategy to enable elderly people to remain within their own homes;
- Housing Development programme;
- Levels of care in Local Authority homes;
- Meals on Wheels;
- Policy relating to single people and childless couples;
- Implications of reduced letting stock in the District and effects on homelessness (allied to use of bed and breakfast accommodation);
- Incorporation of kerb dropping amongst Works Programme;

- Domestic violence/provision of refuge in west of District/problem of people “sleeping on floors” of relatives and friends, especially young men;
- Possible implications of Rural White Paper;
- Small Housing Associations – working with these as part of partnership approach;
- Appointment of individual members to Housing Association Boards;
- Housing Associations – quality of management input and care provided;
- Voids – turnaround times and associated court costs;
- Tightening up exchange deal process;
- Reasons for refusal of properties by potential tenants – link to Housing Needs; and
- Rent arrears/introduction of Christmas rent holiday.

The Panel agreed to request Officers to consider the suggestions made above and incorporate these into a suitable work programme for further consideration at future meetings.

Cllr Ben Rule
CHAIRMAN