

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 6
2 FEBRUARY 2011	Public Report

Report of the Head of the Peterborough Delivery Partnership

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AFFORDABLE HOUSING CAPITAL FUNDING POLICY

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Scrutiny Committee to comment on the emerging Affordable Housing Capital Funding Policy before it is recommended to Cabinet on 7 February 2011 for adoption.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To scrutinise the draft Affordable Housing Capital Funding Policy, with any comments to be reported to Cabinet on 7 February 2011.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 This policy is directly relevant to meeting the priorities of the Sustainable Community Strategy, particularly 'Delivering substantial and truly sustainable growth' and 'Creating strong and supportive communities'.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In simple terms, the policy document (attached at Appendix A), sets out the rules and procedures which PCC will adopt when awarding grants to Registered Providers (RPs) (previously known as Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)), such grants awarded to enable the continued supply of affordable housing in Peterborough. The funds are made available, mostly, from PCC's accumulated right-to-buy capital receipts and are intended to supplement other sources of funding (such as from the Homes and Communities Agency).
- 4.2 Full details of how the policy and procedures will work are set out in the Policy document as attached at Appendix A.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 The key issues addressed by the policy document are:
- the processes and protocols for bidding and allocating grant funding to RSLs
 - the criteria we will adopt to determine applications for funding
 - who is responsible for what in signing off bids (including delegated authority to Directors / use of CMDNs)
 - model 'terms and conditions' for any successful grant awards
- 5.2 Officers are of the opinion that the Council should adopt and publish such a policy document so that its process and criteria for awarding grants is transparent, fair and open

to scrutiny. No such policy document currently exists, a situation which officers are recommending to rectify.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This policy document, when adopted, will give officers, Members and bidders (RPs) a clear, robust and transparent process for awarding significant grants (potentially of up to £2m each) for the provision of affordable housing throughout Peterborough. It will also ensure funds are allocated in line with the council's strategic priorities.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 A 10 day consultation period on the draft policy took place with our Registered Provider (RP) partners from Tuesday 11 January 2011. The outcome of that consultation has helped shape the policy document.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 The policy will be referred to Cabinet on 7 February 2011 for a decision.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1 None

10. APPENDICES

- 10.1 Appendix A - Draft Affordable Housing Capital Funding Policy