

Decisions taken by the Housing Select Committee on Tuesday, 27 October 2015

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
Part A – Items considered in public		
A1	Minutes of the Meeting Held on 16 September 2015	RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2015 be signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
A2	Declarations of Interest	
A3	Communal Heating Systems Review - Response from Mayor and Cabinet	<p>RESOLVED: That the Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Note the Mayoral Response. b) Will review the progress on the recommendations to the review in a year's time. c) Support the proposal to write to the DECC and the GLA about the initiatives being carried out by the Council to oversee the use of communal heating systems in the borough.
A4	Affordability Review - Evidence Session 1	RESOLVED: That the Committee noted the evidence given as part of its review, and thanked both witnesses for attending.
A5	Locational Priority Policy and Temporary Accommodation Procurement Strategy	<p>RESOLVED: That the Committee refer the following as part of the Locational Priority Policy that will be presented to Mayor and Cabinet on 11 November 2015:</p> <p>‘The Housing Select Committee discussed the proposals in the Locational Priority Policy and Temporary Accommodation Procurement Strategy at its meeting on 27 October.</p> <p>The Committee raised concerns about the Location Priority Policy defining ‘close to borough’ as “located within 90 minutes travelling distance of the London Borough of Lewisham by public transport.” The Committee understood that the policy had considered 90 minutes as a ‘reasonable’ commuting time, as it was in line with the 90</p>

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		<p>minutes jobseekers could be required to travel to work, but raised concerns about primary schoolchildren having to travel that far to and from school.</p> <p>The Committee were reassured by officers that they were committed to placing homeless families with children as close to the borough as possible, and would only use the 90 minutes stipulation when there were no suitable, available properties closer to Lewisham. The Committee were informed that the policy had been discussed with the Council's legal team and was drafted in light of the recent judgement in <i>Nzolameso v Westminster City Council</i>, and to ensure that it satisfied the requirements of the case and protect the Council from future legal challenge.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to keep the policy under review, and would also receive from officers the modelling information that was used to help devise the Location Priority Policy. The Committee also requested the information on the ages of children of families placed outside of the borough to help monitor the policy.</p> <p>The Committee also asked for an amendment to the policy that would explicitly stipulate that "officers would endeavour to place families with children as close as possible to the borough."</p>
A6	Key Housing Issues	RESOLVED: That the Committee note the report.
A7	Community Centres on Estates (Information Item)	The Chair noted that the report was an information item, and that any questions were to be referred to the report author, as mentioned in the Scrutiny Manager's e-mail. He also noted that this report was also discussed extensively at the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee meeting on 21 October 2015.
A8	Select Committee Work Programme	RESOLVED: That the Committee agree the work programme for 2015-16.

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A9	Referrals to Mayor and Cabinet	The Committee made a referral to Mayor and Cabinet; at 6.3.