

Mayor And Cabinet			
Report Title	Comments of the Housing Select Committee on Social Housing Options		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	
Ward	All		
Contributors	Housing Select Committee		
Class	Part 1	Date	22 February 2012

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report informs the Mayor and Cabinet of the comments and views of the Housing Select Committee, arising from discussions held on the officer report on *Social Housing Options*, considered at its meeting on 2 February 2012.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to note the views of the Housing Select Committee as set out in section three of the report and agree that the Executive Director for Customer Services be asked to respond to the referral.

3. Housing Select Committee views

- 3.1 On 10 January, the Housing Select Committee considered a report providing information on the costs involved in building new social housing; the potential land available in the borough; and the various funding models that might be used.
- 3.2 The Committee notes that a *New Homes Bonus* was introduced by the Government in April 2011 as an incentive to local communities to support new housing development in their areas. The bonus consists of match funding the additional council tax raised for any new homes and empty properties brought back into use, with an additional amount for affordable homes. The bonus forms part of the Council's overall capital budget, meaning that housing projects are considered alongside other competing Council priorities when it comes to deciding how the bonus should be used. However, is the Committee's view that the Council should ring-fence the bonus so it is used exclusively for the provision of new social housing.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report per se; but there are financial implications arising from carrying out the action proposed by the Committee.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from

the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Social Housing Options – Officer Report to Housing Select Committee (02.02.12)

If you have any queries on this report, please contact Charlotte Dale, Scrutiny Manager (ext. 49534), or Kevin Flaherty, Head of Committee Business (ext. 49327).