

**MINUTES OF: THE CABINET**

**Date of Meeting: Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2006**

**PRESENT: Councillor Ruddick (in the Chair)  
Councillors Challinor, Farquharson, Graham and Ormerod**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Owen Williams, Chief Executive  
George Graham, Executive Director of Resources  
Linda Fisher, Head of Legal and Democratic Services  
Heather Moore, Executive Office Manager**

**ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Entwistle**

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**1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Driver.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

**3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No questions were put to the meeting under this item.

**4. TRANSFER OF THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING STOCK**

The Leader of the Council being the Cabinet Member for Housing presented the report of the Chief Executive and Executive Director of Resources which outlined the terms for transfer of the Council's housing stock to Green Vale Homes Ltd.

The Executive Director of Resources reported that the transfer would be one of the biggest financial transactions which the Council would ever undertake. He indicated that the transfer process would generate significant investment for the housing stock that being £260m over the 30 year business plan with £40m in the first five years.

He informed the Cabinet that the Government would provide "gap funding" to Green Vale Homes reflecting the current negative value of the stock, conditional upon delivery of the Council's promises to tenants.

## **Decisions Made:**

The Council is recommended to:

1. Confirm that it is content with the terms of the transfer and financial package on offer and to pass the following formal resolutions:

that the execution (whether by application of the Council's seal (to deeds) or otherwise), delivery and performance of the Agreement (including all ancillary agreements detailed in the Schedules thereto) to be made between Green Vale Homes Limited and the Council, and any other agreement, document, transfer and deed to be entered into thereunder or in connection therewith be approved;

- (a) that the execution, delivery and performance of the transfer be approved, subject to receipt of the consent of the Deputy Prime Minister (in his capacity as First Secretary of State at the office of the Deputy Prime Minister) pursuant to Sections 32-34 and 43 of the Housing Act 1985 for the disposal of the Council's housing stock to the Company, together with any other appropriate consents which may be necessary for the disposal of any non-housing related assets;
  - (b) that the execution, delivery and performance of the Deeds of Warranty which form part of the Agreement to be given to the funders or to any security trustee for the funders and the Company be approved;
  - (c) that the Acting Chief Executive, in consultation with the Council Leader be authorised to agree any final financial issues which must be settled before completion of the transfer;
  - (d) that the Acting Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to resolve any outstanding matter which might need to be dealt with before completion of the transfer, including agreement of the final terms of all documentation;
  - (e) that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to attend to the sealing and signing of all appropriate documentation in relation to the transfer by the Council to the Company.
2. To note that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services is required to give an opinion to funders in the form set out in Appendix 1.

## **Reason for Decisions:**

The stock transfer will generate significant levels of investment which will result in improvements to the quality of life for people across the Valley.

## **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None.

**(The meeting commenced at 5.30pm and closed at 5.40pm)**