



## **CAERPHILLY HOMES TASK GROUP – 29TH OCTOBER 2015**

**SUBJECT: REVIEW WORKSHOP – FEEDBACK REPORT**

**REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To report on the outcome of the Review Workshop held on 8 September 2015 and to consider follow up actions.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The purpose behind the workshop was to further develop the working relationships between councillors and tenants and to review and refocus the activities of the CHTG.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The Welsh Housing Quality Standard is intended to ensure that all local authority and housing association homes are improved and maintained to achieve specified standards.
- 3.2 The Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017 has a priority to “improve standards of housing and communities, giving appropriate access to services across the County Borough”.
- 3.3 The Council’s Local Housing Strategy “People, Property, and Places” has the following aims:  
“To provide good quality, well managed houses in communities where people want to live, and offer people housing choices which meet their needs and aspirations.”
- 3.4 The Caerphilly Homes Task Group is a formal mechanism to engage with tenant representatives and ensure their views are reflected in decisions relating to public sector housing.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 A summary of the workshop sessions is attached at Appendix 1.

The key outcomes were:-

- The opportunity to discuss and clarify the roles of tenants, councillors and officers.
- The recognition that mutual respect and trust between all partners is essential.
- Reaffirmation of the commitment to work together based on shared goals where there is common ownership of problems and solutions.
- The primary objective remains to achieve WHQS by 2020 which requires speed of delivery but without compromising quality.

- The sharing of views in an informal setting.

4.2 The suggested actions that came from the workshop were:-

- Refine the Terms of Reference to better reflect priorities.
- Explore ways of engaging and involving the wider tenant population.
- Organise regular informal review sessions.
- Improve communications especially where changes to plans occur.
- Learn from mistakes and continually improve.
- Continue to find ways of minimising disruption to tenants during the work within their homes.

4.3 The Terms of Reference were last reviewed in April 2014. The fundamental purpose of the CHTG is to act as a consultative group on all public sector housing matters and to include monitoring of the WHQS Programme.

4.4 There was general agreement that the most important aspects of the Terms of Reference were:-

- (1) Reviewing the strategic direction of the WHQS Programme.
- (2) Monitoring progress with promises made to tenants at the time of the ballot.
- (3) Ensuring tenant engagement is embedded in Council decision making.

4.5 It was also felt that other aspects of the Terms of Reference could be brought up to date by, for example, making a link to the anti poverty agenda and the Welsh Housing policy context. An updated Terms of Reference is attached at Appendix 2.

4.6 Procedurally comments have been made about the number of information reports on the CHTG agenda. It is suggested that in line with conventions adopted by Council committees that information reports will not be presented or discussed unless an advance request has been made to Committee Services. This will place the emphasis on those reports that require recommendations to Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee/Cabinet.

4.7 Recognising there is a desire to have the opportunity for more informal discussion it is proposed that there should be an annual review workshop added to the CHTG calendar.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 An EqlA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance and no potential for unlawful discrimination and for lower level or minor negative impact have been identified, therefore a full EqlA has not been carried out.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the report.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no personnel implications.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

8.1 No comments have been received from the consultees.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) To confirm agreement to the minor changes to the Terms of Reference.
- (2) To accept the procedural amendments in respect of information items.
- (3) To support the proposal for an annual review workshop.
- (4) To incorporate other actions arising from the workshop within day to day business as appropriate.

## **10. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To support the continued development of the CHTG.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Local Government Act 2000.

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Consultees:

Cllr D V Poole	-	Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Housing
C Burns	-	Interim Chief Executive
C Harrhy	-	Corporate Director Communities
N Scammell	-	Acting Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer
S Couzens	-	Chief Housing Officer

Appendix1: Workshop Notes.

Appendix 2: Updated Terms of Reference.