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HOUSING APPEALS COMMITTEE

14 November 2007 - 10.00 am

PRESENT:

Councillor Cook (Chairman); Councillors Ames, Blyth, Burroughs, M Coleman, Easter, Field, B Taylor, D Thompson and Weymouth.

Mr G Devon (Area Housing Manager) and Mrs C Webb (Member Services Officer).

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cunniffe and Jeal.

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2007 were confirmed.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12(a) of the said Act.

3. APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF MUTUAL EXCHANGE

The Committee received the Area Housing Manager's report and letters of appeal relating to an application for a mutual exchange. Members were informed that the application had been refused, as the move would result in under-occupancy of one of the properties and would not agree with the recommendation of the Council's independent medical advisor.

The Area Housing Manager explained the circumstances of the case and reported that the decision had been taken in line with Council procedures for dealing with such cases and was consistent with Homeselect policy.

Members of the Committee considered all the information that was available to them. A vote subsequently took place in favour of upholding the Area Housing Manager's decision, the reasons being that it was in line with Council policy and to ensure consistency of future decision.

RESOLVED:

That the Area Housing Manager's decision to refuse the application for a mutual exchange be upheld.

4. APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF EXCHANGE

The Committee received the Area Housing Manager's report, letters of appeal and supporting letters. Members were informed that the application had been refused, as one of the parties would under-occupy a three bedroom property. The Area Housing Manager explained the circumstances of the case and reported that the decision had been taken in line with Council procedures for dealing with such cases and was also consistent with Homeselect policy.

A lengthy discussion ensued in respect of the tenants of the house whose daughter had learning difficulties. A supporting letter had been received from the John Grant School.

Members sympathised with the applicant's case and recognised the importance of the provision of a garden area for the child with learning difficulties. They discussed the merits of the applicant applying through the Homeselect process but agreed that the timescale would not be appropriate in this case.

Members considered all of the information available to them and a subsequent proposal was made to uphold the tenant's appeal. A vote was taken, with the majority in favour of the proposal.

RESOLVED:

That the appeal against the refusal of exchange be upheld.

5. APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF MUTUAL EXCHANGE

The Committee received the Area Housing Manager's report and letters of appeal relating to an application for a mutual exchange. Members were informed that the application had been refused, as the move would result in the over-crowding of one property and the under-occupancy of the other property.

The Area Housing Manager explained the circumstances of the case and reported that the decision had been taken in line with Council procedures for dealing with such cases and was consistent with Homeselect policy.

Members of the Committee considered all of the information that was available to them. A vote subsequently took place in favour of upholding the Area Housing Manager's decision, the reasons being that it was in line with Council policy and to ensure consistency of future decisions.

RESOLVED:

That the Area Housing Manager's decision to refuse the application for mutual exchange be upheld.

6. APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL OF MUTUAL EXCHANGE

The Committee received the Area Housing Manager's report and letters of appeal relating to an application for mutual exchange. Members were informed that the application had been refused, as the move would result in the under-occupancy of a three bedroom property.

The Area Housing Manager explained the details of the case and reported that the decision had been taken in line with Council procedures for dealing with such cases and was consistent with Homeselect policy.

Members of the Committee considered all of the information that was available to them. A vote subsequently took place in favour of upholding the Area Housing Manager's decision, the reasons being that it was in line with Council policy and to ensure consistency of future decisions.

RESOLVED:

That the Area Housing Manager's decision to refuse the application for mutual exchange be upheld.

7. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 10.20 am.