Report to Housing Scrutiny Standing Panel

Date of meeting: 11 January 2011

Subject: CLG Consultation Paper – "Local Decisions: a fairer future for social housing"



Officer contact for further information: Alan Hall, Director of Housing

Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins

SUPPEMENTARY REPORT - ITEM 7 ON THE AGENDA

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That consideration be given to the draft response from the Council, and if considered appropriate the Tenants and Leaseholders Federation, to the CLG Consultation Paper – "Local Decisions: a fairer future for social housing", set out at Appendix 2.

Report:

- 1. Appendix 1 provides a summary, produced by the Director of Housing, of the main proposals set out in the CLG's Consultation Paper "Local Decisions: a fairer future for social housing". This was previously provided in the Council Bulletin, and to the Tenants and Leaseholders Federation, when the document was first received.
- 2. Appendix 2 provides a draft response from the Director of Housing for consideration by the Scrutiny Panel and members of the Tenants and Leaseholders Federation. Members of the Federation, who have been invited to attend the meeting and take part in the debate, need to decide (at the end of the meeting) whether or not they can agree to a joint response with the Council. For this reason, the response has been drafted to take this into account. If the Federation members are unhappy to provide a joint response with the Council, the Federation can agree its own, separate, response at its scheduled meeting on the 12th January 2011.
- 3. It should be noted that, since some of the Government's proposals are considered controversial, are a matter of judgement, and members' views are not yet known, Appendix 2 has been drafted in such a way to set out different suggested responses, dependent on the consensus/majority view of members at the meeting. Clearly, in addition to the options provided, alternative wording can be formulated at the meeting, based on members' views.
- 4. Some of the consultation questions are aimed only at tenants. These have been highlighted, and if members of the Federation agree to provide a joint response, they will be asked at the meeting to provide their views on these issues, for incorporation within the response.
- 5. Where the Director of Housing has a strong professional view, or the issue is of a more technical nature, a proposed response has been suggested. Of course, members are at liberty to change the proposed wording.