

**Report to the Council Housebuilding
Cabinet Committee**



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Report reference: CHB-000-2013/14
Date of meeting: 17 April 2014

Portfolio: Housing – Cllr David Stallan

Subject: Leader Decision to Extend the Cabinet Committee's Terms of Reference

Responsible Officer: Alan Hall, Director of Communities (01992 564004)

Democratic Services Officer: Jackie Leither (01992 564756)

Recommendations:

That the Leader Decision to extend the Cabinet Committee's Terms of Reference with an additional paragraph (Paragraph 12) be noted.

Executive Summary:

It is anticipated that the Council may wish to seek Investment Partner status with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and to submit funding bids for grant in the future.

This extension of the Cabinet Committee's Terms of Reference empowers the Cabinet Committee to authorise an application for Investment Partner status and submission of funding bids.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To ensure that all members of the Cabinet Committee are aware of the extension to the Terms of Reference.

Other Options for Action:

None – for noting only.

Report:

1. Following discussions at previous Cabinet Committee meetings, it is anticipated that the Council will wish to seek Investment Partner status with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), in order to be able to submit funding bids to the HCA – either as part of the current Bidding Round (see below) or through the HCA's Continuous Market Engagement (CME) process (which will run through the duration of the forthcoming funding period)..

2. The HCA has recently invited funding bids under its next Affordable Homes Programme (2015/16 – 2017/18), with a deadline for submissions of 30th April 2014. There is a separate item on the Agenda for this meeting on this issue.

3. It is a requirement of the HCA's Prospectus for this Bidding Round that funding bids are formally signed off "by the organisation's Board". All housing associations have boards, but such governance arrangements are not applicable to local authority governance structures.

4. Since the Leader has formally delegated responsibility for overseeing the delivery of the Council's Housebuilding Programme to this Cabinet Committee, it is considered appropriate that responsibility for formally signing-off matters relating to HCA Investment Partner status and funding bids should also be executed by the Cabinet Committee.

5. However, such responsibility was not previously included within the Cabinet Committee's Terms of Reference. Therefore, the Leader of Council has extended the Cabinet Committee's Terms of Reference, through a formal Leader Decision, to cover these matters.

6. Accordingly, the Cabinet Committee's Terms of Reference have been extended with the inclusion of the following additional paragraph:

"12. To approve applications to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) (or any successor body) to obtain HCA Investment Partner Status (or similar), in order to enable the Council to seek funding from the HCA, and to approve funding bids to the HCA for developments within the Council Housebuilding Programme"

7. A copy of the Leader Decision is attached for information.

Resource Implications:

None – for noting only

Legal and Governance Implications:

None – for noting only

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

None – for noting only.

Consultation Undertaken:

The Council's Development Agent, East Thames, were consulted on the proposal and had no comments.

Background Papers:

None

Impact Assessments:

Risk Management

None – for noting only.

Equality and Diversity:

Did the initial assessment of the proposals contained in this report for relevance to the Council's general equality duties, reveal any potentially adverse equality implications? N/A

Where equality implications were identified through the initial assessment process, has a formal Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? N/A

What equality implications were identified through the Equality Impact Assessment process?

N/A

How have the equality implications identified through the Equality Impact Assessment been addressed in this report in order to avoid discrimination against any particular group?

N/A