

Subject:	Cabinet Response to the Findings of the Green Vale Homes Task and Finish Group	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date:	7 th September 2015
Report of:	Head of Health, Housing and Regeneration	Portfolio Holder:	Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Leisure
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: /No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the Cabinet's response to the recommendations within the Green Vale Homes Task and Finish Group Report
1.2	That the Scrutiny Support Officer will in six months time monitor the recommendations agreed by Cabinet/THG to ensure these have been implemented and if not, receive an explanation for the delay.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the Cabinet's response to the recommendations of the Green Vale Homes Task and Finish Group.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:

- **Responsive Value for Money Services:** This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 At the request of the former Chief Executive, a task and finish group was established with the following terms of reference.

- To review the proposed changes to the Governance at Green Vale Homes and what this could mean to the Council and Rossendale residents and look at the relationship between the Council and GVH going forward under the new proposed governance arrangements.
- The group need to look more in-depth at the operational structure to find out what has changed and how GVH can influence and work with the Council and vice-versa.

- To look at issues around new developments in terms of consultation and communication.

5.2 Meetings were held between 11th September 2014 and 16th February 2015, during which time the task and finish group heard from the two Council representatives on the Green Vale Homes Board, a representative from the CAB, numerous Officers from both GVH and the Together Housing Group, including their Chief Executive, Steve Close.

5.3 A meeting was held with Officers from Green Vale Homes to discuss their recommendations and these are included within the main report attached as **Appendix 1**.

This report was submitted to Cabinet on 8th July 2015 when they agreed, in principal, to the recommendations as follows:

Response to recommendations

Recommendation 1:

The Council would welcome the opportunity of undertaking a marketing exercise with GVH on how we can assist in improving the allocations system

Cabinet supports this recommendation and have asked Officers to meet with Green Vale Homes representatives to develop the details to implement this recommendation.

Recommendation 2:

That the Council should consider a targeted neighbourhood campaign, possibly on STAN, to encourage people to search out the best deals and help them switch energy supplier.

Cabinet supports this recommendation and will request officers to investigate the potential for providing this via STAN and to also utilise STAN to provide increased publicity to those tenants who need extra support, to ensure that they are aware of the various agencies who can assist them.

Recommendation 3:

That contact details of all Councillors should be provided to Green Vale Homes to ensure that Councillors are offered the opportunity of attending ward estate walkabouts if they wish to do so.

Cabinet supports this recommendation; Councillors details have been passed to the Group Director of Strategy and Communications

Recommendation 4:

That further discussion around finalising a 'Commitment for Rossendale' is undertaken between THG and Council Officers

Cabinet supports this recommendation and will ask officers to pursue this issue

Recommendation 5:

That joint working protocols are established with RBC and the Police around new Anti Social Behaviour Legislation to make a positive impact on neighbourhoods.

Cabinet supports this recommendation. Some work on this issue has already been undertaken and this is likely to be strengthened through ongoing work relating to the potential establishment of a combined Community Safety Partnership.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1 Any financial implications arising will be contained within existing budgets

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 No additional comments

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

8.1 No HR implications.

Consultation has been carried out by Members of the Task and Finish Group, Members of the Public, other organisations and various Officers from Rossendale Borough Council.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The Cabinet supports the recommendations of the Green Vale Homes Task and Finish Group.

9.2 Cabinet values this important review undertaken by the Task and Finish Group.

9.3 That GVH continues to have regular dialogue at Overview and Scrutiny level with the Council.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Phase 1 Report of the Welfare Reforms Task and Finish Group	Democratic Services Room 213, Futures Park