

# Minutes

**Special Meeting of:** Community and Housing/Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel

**Meeting held in:** The Alamein Suite, City Hall, Salisbury

**Date:** Wednesday 1 October 2008

**Commencing at:** 4:00 pm

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**District Councillors:**

**Community and Housing/Resources**

Councillors R Britton (Chairman), B Rycroft (Vice-Chair), R J Clewer, J A Green, D J Luther, I D McLennan, I M Mitchell, M J Osment, together with representative's of the Tenant's Panel namely Mr Hinnis, Mr Watkins, Mr Logie and Mr Edwards.

**Apologies:** Councillors S L Dennis, M A Hewitt, C Mills, Mrs C Morrison, Miss M A Tomlinson and F Westmoreland

**Officers:** Derek Streek (Head of Housing management) Tom Bray (Democratic Services)

**1. Public Questions / Statement Time:**

There were none.

**2. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:**

There were none.

**3. Declarations of Interests:**

There were none.

**4. Chairman's Announcements:**

There were none.

**5. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 30 year Business Plan:**

The Panel received a presentation from the Head of Housing Management. There followed a wide-ranging debate about the long-term financial problems the report highlighted. Members agreed that the following recommendations should be put to Cabinet:

**Resolved – that:**

- 1 Cabinet is urged to press for the creation of a Local Governance Board to take overall responsibility for the management of our housing stock.
- 2 Cabinet should call on the government to recognise the serious negative effect the present subsidy system has created for Salisbury District Council and its tenants.
- 3 Cabinet is urged to continue to support the present process of lobbying government to bring about the changes to the subsidy system we need.
- 4 Cabinet is recommended to immediately commission work to produce contingency plans against the eventuality that changes to the subsidy system are not forthcoming.

**NB.** Cabinet accepted the first three recommendations. Cllr Sample said he would raise the issue of the Local Governance Board at his next meeting with WCC's Leader. Cabinet rejected the fourth recommendation.