

Extract from the Minutes of the Housing & Major Projects Panel – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012

#### Item 8 – Cabinet Member Update

The Associate Director for Housing gave an update to the Panel on behalf of Councillor Tim Ball, Cabinet Member for Homes & Planning. He informed them that Somer Community Housing had formally announced their new structure and governance procedures and had changed their name to Curo.

He added that officers were assessing any possible implications to the Council and would report back to the Panel on this matter in due course.

Councillor Will Sandry commented that the next meeting of the Panel may be too late a date to share those concerns, if any were found.

Councillor Steve Hedges asked if the Council's membership on the Somer Community Housing Trust Board was in jeopardy.

The Associate Director for Housing replied that the new structure proposed the removal of the single B&NES member from the Board.

The Chair of the Panel, Councillor Eleanor Jackson commented that she believed this to be a key matter and suggested it be passed to all Political Group Leaders.

Councillor Les Kew commented that he was surprised that there had been no consultation on this matter.

The Associate Director for Housing replied that he shared some of the concerns raised and that is why he had asked for the proposals to be put in writing. He added that he had only recently received them.

Councillor Les Kew called for a legal view on the matter to be given as soon as possible.

Councillor Will Sandry suggested that the Corporate Audit Committee be made aware of these proposals so that they can assess if there is any corporate risk to the Council.

The Chair of the Panel proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Councillor Les Kew and adopted unanimously.

The Housing & Major Projects Panel asks the Corporate Audit Committee to investigate as a matter of urgency the relationship between Somer Community Housing (Curo) and the Council, considering the proposed changes in operation by Somer Community Housing (Curo), especially the proposal to remove the position of a B&NES member from their Board.