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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> February 2008

Subject: ALMO Working Group – Progress Report

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In line with the Council's Scrutiny Board Procedure Rules, this report details the work of a Scrutiny Working Group established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 At the beginning of the Municipal year a working group was established to consider the potential for an Inquiry into the ALMOs, particularly the issue of capital expenditure and the use of Right to Buy receipts. A decision was taken at that time by Members that given the budgetary nature of Members' interest this would fall to Overview and Scrutiny Committee rather than Scrutiny Board (Environment and Neighbourhoods)
- 1.3 The Working Group has a membership of Councillors Grahame, Anderson, Pryke, Bentley, Hanley and McKenna. The Group has met on two occasions. The first meeting, held on 14th November 2007 resulted in a series of additional questions being asked.
- 1.4 These questions were referred to the relevant officers and the responses were discussed at a meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008. Additional questions have now resulted from this second meeting the answers to which will be forwarded to the Working Group members.
- 1.5 It is the Chair's view that the original remit of the Working Group, that is, to understand the use of Right to Buy receipts within the Capital Programme has now been fulfilled and that therefore the Working Group should disband.

1.6 Should there be any additional matters Members of the Working Group wish to raise these would now fall within the remit of Scrutiny Board (Neighbourhoods and Environment) and should therefore be forwarded to that Board for appropriate consideration.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 The Committee is requested to;

- (i) Receive and note this report
- (ii) Agree to disband the ALMO Working Group.
- (iii) Refer any further housing issues to Scrutiny Board (Neighbourhoods and Environment) for its consideration.