

DERBY HOMES AREA BOARDS DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Report of the Acting Director of Housing Services

1. The DTLR asked Derby City Council to submit an application under section 27 of the Housing Act 1985 by 22 February 2002. This seeks consent to delegate housing management responsibilities to Derby Homes.
2. In considering this application the Secretary of State will wish to be satisfied that "where area or other subsidiary bodies are established they have the maximum possible delegation at a local level".
3. The successful bid for a pre-conditional allocation of arms length resources submitted to DTLR said that area boards would be established. This was stated in response to guidance that unless these arrangements were in place, bids from authorities with over 12,000 stock would not be supported.
4. Following our successful bid it was initially proposed the role of local Community or Customer Panels be enhanced in order to fulfil the role of Area Boards. DTLR indicated that this would not be acceptable as they were perceived as advisory and consultative and lacking decision making powers.
5. Advice has been taken on the type of arrangements that might be acceptable to DTLR. This has resulted in the attached draft terms of reference, prepared by Anthony Collins Solicitors, for two Area Boards: Derby West and Derby East. It is proposed to recruit these Boards, establish them initially on a shadow basis and move over time to delegation of responsibilities from the Derby Homes main Board to its Area Boards. The paper sets out the reasons for now proposing 2 (rather than 4) Area Boards, their proposed membership and a timetable for their development.
6. This paper has been submitted as part of the section 27 application in order to meet the DTLR's timetable. DTLR has been advised that the application is subject to approval by the Council Executive on 26 February 2002. These proposals will be discussed with Derby Association of Community Partners. Any changes proposed may be constrained by the DTLR's requirements and the terms of any conditions attached to the Secretary of State's consent.