



## **Report to Residents' Panel 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

### **Appointment of Specialist Residents' Advisor (SRA)**

#### **Proposal**

- a) The residents panel should select four people who will recruit a Specialist Resident Advisor**
- b) The recruitment panel will receive training if required to undertake this task**
- c) The recruitment will take place in December and early January**

#### **Background information**

- 1 The SRA will be appointed by the Residents' Panel with assistance from the Borough of Poole. (The contract will be with the Borough)
- 2 The Residents' Panel and the Council will decide the precise role of the SRA which is likely to be all or some of the following:
  - help the Council and Residents' Panel to create ways to make sure all residents are informed, or have the opportunity to be informed, about the project
  - give independent advice and guidance to the Residents' Panel
  - advise residents and the Council/PHP on the fairness/impartiality of information produced by the Council/PHP during the project.
  - identify training needs of the Residents' Panel and help them develop the skills and knowledge they need, for example to understand government policies and how these affect the Council's position, the Council's and PHP's financial position and the housing finance system
  - support and enable the Residents' Panel to question what lies behind the Council's approach and make sure everyone has the chance to raise questions and voice their opinions
  - help the Residents' Panel to access and understand information on the various options available
  - brief and debrief residents on the Panel for meetings with officers
  - provide a help line service to all residents
  - advise Residents' Panel and the Council/PHP during the process of ideas on how resident participation in the Borough might be developed further or improved
- 4 The ITA role will not include:

- Recommending an option to residents

5 The ITA will report on an operational level to the Residents' Panel and to a nominated Council Officer