

#### **EX40. Housing Revenue Account – Land Sales Under £5,000 for Additional Residential Garden Ground**

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services presenting changes in the way that applications to purchase Housing Revenue Account (HRA) land under the value of £5,000 are undertaken.

Applications by owners seeking to buy areas of land adjoining their properties for use as additional residential garden ground are currently determined by the Director of Corporate and Housing Services under delegated authority. The number of applications received has increased over recent years. However, the number of applications resulting in a purchase is significantly less than the number of applications received. Between 2012 and 2014, only 13 out of 71 applications had resulted in sales. The current process, which involves a number of services within the Council, is staff intensive and the income is less than the cost to administer the process.

The procedure had been reviewed and a simplified process was now proposed. Additionally, it was proposed that a non-returnable fee of £200 is applied on application. This would contribute towards the administration costs involved in dealing with the application and help mitigate the abortive time and cost spent on applications which are not concluded.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor G Goldie, moved that:-

The Executive agrees to:-

- (1) introduce a non-returnable fee of £200 for all applications to purchase HRA land at a price of less than £5,000 for the purposes of use as additional residential garden ground; and
- (2) the proposed revised consultation process.

As an amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Alexander, moved the following addendum to the motion:-

The Executive agrees the terms of the motion but adds that:-

A refusal of sale by the Council will lead to an automatic return of the £200 fee to the applicant.

On a division 8 members voted for the motion and 3 voted for the amendment, with voting as follows:-

For the motion (8) - Councillors Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin and Nimmo.

For the amendment (3) – Councillors Alexander, Coleman and Spears.

### **Decision**

**The Executive agreed the motion.**