

Decent and Affordable Homes PDG

17 March 2015

Chairman's Report 2015

This year the PDG meetings have been busy dealing with a wide range of topics brought to us by our officers including various policy revisions and updates which are essential to make sure that our housing teams are equipped to continue the high quality provision of housing that our tenants deserve.

In February of this year the authority completed and opened 6 new homes at Willand to add to our stock with further schemes underway in St Andrew's Street in Tiverton and more projects planned. We are actively working to provide much needed quality homes to help in meeting the housing needs of our district.

The housing teams have worked diligently to maintain our timely rental income and for this they all deserve congratulations. Our neighbourhood officers maintain strong contacts with our tenants and readily advise them on all tenancy matters.

The maintenance department have again worked hard to make sure that our housing stock is kept in good order in challenging times caused by declining budgets. We have continued a programme of upgrades to kitchens, bathrooms and heating systems and actively investigate alternative energy efficiencies to benefit our tenants.

As Chairman I have attended a number of the Scrutiny Improvement Boards both of which are very useful in helping to understand the challenges facing our housing department and our tenants.

As Chairman my sincere thanks must go to all the PDG Members for their regular attendance. A special thanks also needs to be paid to Cllrs Mrs Janet Rendle and Paul Williams for all the extra time and effort they spent as members of the Devon Home Choice Working Group. A also extend thanks to Cllr Ray Stanley for his regular attendance and his ongoing assistance and guidance.

To Nick Sanderson and all his dedicated team thanks for all their efforts, their provision of requested information to allow our committee to make decisions in an informative and timely manner.

To Andrew Jarrett and all the finance team who regularly attend our meetings and keep us well informed on financial matters to enable us to meet the challenging times we are in. A special thank you must also go to Sandra Hutchings for her work with our Scrutiny Improvement Group (SIG) and her work on the housing Facebook page which enables us to link with tenants in the digital age.

Finally my special thanks must go to Sarah Lees, our Committee Clerk, for her ever present assistance and guidance above and beyond the norm.

Peter Heal

Chairman.