

CABINET MEETING – 21 JULY 2014

AGENDA ITEM 3 – PUBLIC QUESTION TIME –

Question from Angela Tester, Secretary of Littlehampton Civic Society:-

As noted that District Council Policy is to retain, buy back, and to increase numbers of houses for Council Housing, I was surprised to learn that two properties owned by this Council, and previously let to Council tenants, have in recent months been sold to developers as a matter of policy. These properties are in Terminus Place. In this Agenda under Alternative Housing Provision (Page 31), you mention properties have been acquired as ex-Council Right to Buy properties and also the purchase of another empty property, so why have these houses been sold?

Response from Councillor Elkins, Cabinet Member for Housing

Our records show that the last sale of a Council property in Terminus Place was Number 3, which required major works in the region of £60k. Following a decision taken by Cabinet on 17 January 2011, it was "...agreed to sell on the open market to developer to maximise benefit of the capital receipt from the sale.." The property was eventually sold for £80,000.

We have no other records of Council house sales on the open market for Terminus Place, with any other sales that have taken place being via the Right to Buy scheme.

Whilst it is exceptional for Council properties to be sold on the open market, this is something that the Council will continue to consider doing when the cost of bringing the property up to decent homes standard is significant and where there is an opportunity for a receipt that can be reinvested in other Council housing.