



Report to Cabinet

Date: 21 February 2008

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Subject: Honeywood Gardens Compulsory Purchase Order

1. Purpose of Report

For Members to consider whether to proceed with a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) for the garage courts at Honeywood Gardens.

2. Background

- 2.1 Cabinet considered a report in May 2005, concerning the condition of the garage courts within Honeywood Gardens. Some of the garages had fallen into disrepair and become a focus for fly tipping and anti-social behaviour. The Cabinet agreed, in principle, that the garage courts be subject to CPO subject to further reports concerning the planning position and costings.
- 2.2 Following this decision local residents indicated that there was no widespread agreement to this course of action and they wished to carry out a consultation exercise to test this. The local residents' group carried out the consultation exercise, delivering a questionnaire to 650 households. Responses were received from 173 households, (26.6%), of the responses received in answer to the questions concerning the CPO, 75 were in favour of the CPO and 73 against.
- 2.3 Following publication of the survey responses to residents of the estate a public meeting was held to provide an open forum for debate. Council officers and a Ward Member were present to answer questions.
- 2.4 The consensus view of that meeting was that a CPO was not the appropriate course of action to deal with the issues arising from the condition of the garage courts at this time, and that the Borough Council be requested to consider the use of their other powers to address the problems in conjunction with the residents' group.
- 2.5 A CPO of the garage courts would inevitably require a large amount of officer time and legal and estates resource. The Honeywood Estate has complex landholding issues and is partly within the City Council administrative area. Any CPO procedure is likely to result in a public

enquiry given the degree of opposition to an Order expressed through the consultation process.

3. Proposal

The Cabinet is requested to consider whether the Council should continue to pursue the option of a CPO for the Honeywood Gardens Estate garage courts.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members decide whether:

- (i) To continue with the process towards the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order and request further reports on anticipated costs and planning implications; or
- (ii) To not proceed with the making of a Compulsory Purchase Order and request that officers work with the residents to explore other solutions to the problems arising with the garage courts.