

Housing & Community Safety Select Committee

A meeting of Housing & Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday, 23rd November, 2006.

Present: Cllr Mrs Trainer (Chairman); Cllr Mrs S Fletcher, Cllr M Frankland, Cllr T Laing, Cllr J M Lynch (Vice Councillor Brown), Cllr Mrs E A Nesbitt, Cllr W Noble, Cllr R Rix, Cllr J M Roberts, Cllr S F Walmsley, Cllr B Woodhead.

Officers: J Allport, M Batty, C Wood (DNS); P K Bell, P J Mennear, A Mudd, J Trainer (LD).

Also in attendance: T Monkhouse, D Pickard (Tristar Homes Ltd), Superintendent D Brunskill.

Apologies: Cllr Brown, Cllr Jones and Cllr Teasdale.

735 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Trainer declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.5 – The Development of Choice Based Lettings as she was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Mrs Roberts declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.5 – The Development of Choice Based Lettings as she was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Woodhead declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.5 – The Development of Choice Based Lettings as he was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

736 Draft minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2006.

Consideration was given to the content of the draft minutes of the meeting on 8th June 2006 prior to their submission to Council.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meetings held on 8th June 2006 be submitted to Council.

737 Report on Police Performance - Superintendent Dave Brunskill

As part of the Anti Social Behaviour Review it was agreed that Members should be presented with an annual report on Police Performance. Superintendent Brunskill was in attendance at the meeting and presented Members with figures for 2006/07, 2005/06, the change and the percentage change. Also included in the presentation were the figures on the direct results from information received.

It was reported that overall there had been a 9.5% reduction in crime. Members felt that the figures were very good considering the tight budget that the Police had to operate on.

Reference was made to the new resources that would be made available to Stockton Police; potentially this could include up to 5 uniformed officers and 30 Police Community Support Officers. There would also be a dedicated Schools

Liaison Officer who would be educating pupils.

Superintendent Brunskill outlined how impressed he had been with the Council and Ward Councillors.

It was agreed that the presentation had been extremely useful and that the next presentation on police performance should be around April 2007, in order to closely follow the finalisation of annual performance figures.

Members thanked Superintendent Brunskill for his attendance at the meeting.

CONCLUDED that:-

1. The report on Police Performance be received.
2. Superintendent Brunskill be invited back to a meeting in April 2007 to update Members on Police Performance.

738 The Development of Choice Based Lettings

As part of the Development of Choice Based Lettings Members were presented with the following documents:-

1. The Summaries from the recent site visits.
2. An updated Project Plan/Consultation Plan.

Members were impressed with one stop shop at Erimus Homechoice and felt that if it was possible Stockton should try and emulate this set up.

Mr D Pickard (Tristar Homes Ltd) outlined that the Registered Social Landlords would like to join the Choice Based Lettings scheme in the Stockton Borough.

Members felt that if possible garages should be included in the Stockton Borough Choice Based Lettings scheme.

With regard the consultation plan it was noted that customers would be introduced to Choice Based Lettings followed by a report to Cabinet and then a formal, more consultation would take place.

It was agreed that Housing Services would provide a skeleton framework allocations policy. This would be presented to Members in early 2007.

It was also agreed that Tristar Homes would provide a skeleton framework for delivering the policy with associated costs. This would be presented to Members in early 2007.

CONCLUDED that the summaries from the site visits and the project plan/consultation plan be noted.

