

Housing & Community Safety Select Committee

A meeting of Housing & Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday, 22nd November, 2007.

Present: Cllr Mrs Allison Trainer (Chair), Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Julia Roberts, Cllr William Woodhead

Officers: S. Lee (PPC), E. Fletcher (Tristar Homes Ltd), M. Batty, C. Wood, R. Young (DNS), P. Mennear, J. Trainer, M. Jones, D. Ladd (LD)

Also in attendance: Cllr Tina Large, Cllr Steve Walmsley

Apologies: Cllr Paul Baker, Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Lee Narroway, Cllr Mohammed Javed

HCS 21/07 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs Trainer declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.8 – Review of Choice Based Lettings as she was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Gibson declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.8 – Review of Choice Based Lettings as he was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Mrs Roberts declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.8 – Review 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.8 – Review of Choice Based Lettings as he was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

HCS 22/07 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th July 2007 - for signature**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th July 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

HCS 23/07 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th September 2007 - for signature**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

HCS 24/07 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th September 2007 - for approval**

Consideration was given to the content of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2007.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2007 be forwarded to Council for consideration.

**HCS
25/07**

Review of Neighbourhood Enforcement Service

Members reviewed the Neighbourhood Enforcement Service Action Plan. Recommendation one, 'the continued provision of a neighbourhood service to deliver no less service than that currently delivered and that this aspiration be considered by Council as part of the review of the Medium Term Financial Plan' was discussed. It was agreed that the success measure would be changed to reflect the Committee's wish that the continuity funding package should be sought from Council mainstream funding, and not from a combination of mainstream funding and regeneration funding.

In addition, it was agreed that there should be a clarification of the budget setting process in relation to the issue of funding for the Neighbourhood Enforcement Service at the next meeting of the Committee. Members were advised that the final decision on the Medium Term Financial Plan would not be made until February

Members discussed recommendation four, 'Parish and Town Councils within the Borough be approached to explore the potential for contributions towards the funding of the Service, using the arrangement with Ingleby Barwick as an example'. M. Batty reminded Members that Ingleby Barwick Parish Council paid approximately £40,000 per year, in return for which the Borough Council provided an extra 1.5 Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers, who were dedicated exclusively to Ingleby Barwick. He added that the Parish/Town Councils were given an option to contribute in a similar way to receive additional services in his letter to them as in the recommendation. Members requested that this be clarified on the Action Plan, and the letter that was sent to Town/Parish Councils be circulated to Members of the Committee.

CONCLUDED that:

1. the Action Plan be amended so that the success measure of recommendation one be changed to ensure that the continuity funding package is sought from Council mainstream funding.
2. the Action Plan be amended so that the Proposed Actions for recommendation four highlights that the letter to Parish/Town Councils should mention that funding contributions would be for an additional service.
3. the letter that was sent to Parish and Town Council be circulated to the Committee.
4. a progress report be received by the Committee at the first meeting following Annual Council 2008/09

**HCS
26/07**

Travellers Transit Site Selection

Members discussed the draft scope and project plan for the Travellers Transit Site Selection review. The Scrutiny Officer informed Members that the issue had been referred from Cabinet and confirmed by Executive Scrutiny Committee for inclusion in the Select Committee's work programme. It was proposed that at a meeting of 13 December a shortlist of potential sites would be drawn up in

advance of consultation. Recommendations from the Committee would need to be finalised by late January 2008 to be presented to Cabinet in February 2008.

Officers noted that the Authority was required to assess the need for a Traveller Site, and this was being carried out at the Tees Valley level. An Interim report was due to be received by December 2007 and anecdotal evidence suggested that there was a need for a transit site in the Borough. The Authority was currently accommodating travellers on a 'piecemeal' basis which was expensive, and the provision of a properly devised and managed site would drive down costs.

Members requested information on the amenities that would need to be provided on a site to be included during the review. R. Young stated that the location of and amenities on the site would be inline with planning regulations. Travellers would be given rules and regulations on the use of the site which they would have to abide by, therefore limiting the risk of the site being misused.

RESOLVED that the Travellers Transite Site Selection Scope and Project Plan be agreed.

**HCS
27/07** **Review of Choice Based Lettings**

The assessment of progress contained within the progress report was accepted and recommendations one and two were signed off as complete.

CONCLUDED that progress so far be agreed and that further updates be received as appropriate

**HCS
28/07** **Work Programme**

The Work Programme was noted.

Members requested information in relation to spending by the Regional Housing Board.

CONCLUDED that the work programme be noted.