

## **Housing & Community Safety Select Committee**

A meeting of Housing & Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday, 31st January, 2008.

**Present:** Cllr Mrs Allison Trainer(Chairman), Cllr Julia Roberts(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Miss Tina Large, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Bill Woodhead

**Officers:** Mike batty, Roger Tait(DNS), Simon Lee, Satnam Singh(PPSU), Paul Hutchinson(RES), Peter Mennear, Juduth Trainer, Sarah Whaley(LD)

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Robert Cook

**Apologies:** Cllr P Baker, Cllr J Earl

### **HCS 37/07      Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mohammed Javed declared a personal/non prejudicial interest as the site which was to be considered as a Traveller Transit site was situated in the ward which Cllr Mohammed Javed represented.

### **HCS 38/07      Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th September 2007 - for signature**

Minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **HCS 39/07      Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd November 2007 - for signature**

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2007 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **HCS 40/07      Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th December 2007 - for approval**

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 20th December 2007.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th December 2007 be forwarded to Council.

### **HCS 41/07      Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th January 2008 - for approval**

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2008.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th January 2008 be forwarded to Council.

**HCS  
42/07**      **Traveller Transit Site Selection Review**

Members were presented with the findings of the consultation by the Scrutiny Officer and in particular the negative feedback which had been received. Members discussed the feedback received and the impact that this could cause if the Traveller Transit site was to be located at Bowesfield Pumping Station. The Committee also discussed alternatives which included the feasibility of revisiting smaller sites and also that if land owned by Stockton Borough Council was not deemed to be suitable consideration would need to be given to privately owned land.

In addition to this it was highlighted that the Tees Valley authorities were currently undertaking a sub-regional Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and a report would be available by March 2008 which could be taken into consideration during any future site selection process.

The Committee were unable to identify a preferred site within Council ownership, and it was felt that this should be recommended to Cabinet along with the need to consider land outside the Council's ownership.

**CONCLUDED** that the recommendations be included in the Committees final report and that the report be forwarded to Cabinet for consideration.

**HCS  
43/07**      **Work Programme**

Members were notified that future work programmes would be discussed at the Scrutiny Liaison Forum scheduled for March 2008. Members were invited to submit any suggestions they might have for future reviews to the Scrutiny Team as soon as possible for consideration.

The Head of Community Protection presented the Committee with an update from the Enforcement review. Members heard that the DVLA had agreed to give the Council a dispensation on the ruling that cars under the value of £5000 could not be resold. In addition to this cars which had been confiscated throughout the rest of the country were now available free of charge to the Police and Fire Service after re-registration, and the DVLA had agreed to extend this to the Council's Neighbourhood Enforcement Service.

**CONCLUDED** that Members forward any suggestions for future reviews to Scrutiny Team