

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

A meeting of Housing & Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday, 12th June, 2008.

**Present:** Cllr Mrs Allison Trainer(Chairman), Cllr Julia Roberts(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt, Cllr Bill Noble,

**Officers:** Marilyn Davies, Jane Edmonds, Caroline Wood, (DNS) Sarah Whaley, Peter Mennear (LD)

**Also in attendance:** Chief Inspector Gamesby

**Apologies:** Cllr Bill Woodhead

### **HCS 8/08      Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mrs Trainer declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.6 –Progress Updates on previously agreed recommendations and item no. 8 - Work programme as she was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Gibson declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.6 – Progress Updates on previously agreed recommendations and item no. 8 - Work programme 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.6 –Progress Updates on previously agreed recommendations and item no. 8 - Work programme as she was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

### **HCS 9/08      Minutes of the meeting held on 31st January 2008 - for signature**

Minutes of the meeting held on 31st January 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### **HCS 10/08      Minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2008 - for approval**

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2008.

RESOLVED that:-

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2008 be forwarded to Council.

### **HCS 11/08      Annual Police performance update**

The Chief Inspector for Stockton was in attendance at the meeting and

presented members with the recorded crime figures and Anti Social Behaviour disorder codes for April 2007 - March 2008 compared with April 2006 - March 2007.

Members discussed the crime statistics and it was noted that there was a slight increase in the overall crime figures of 2007 - 2008 compared to that of 2006 - 2007, however it was pointed out that there had been an overall reduction in crime since 2003 - 2004 of more than 14%.

It was highlighted that under the National Crime Recording Standards Stockton's Police force were amongst the top 3 nationally. It was also discussed that Stockton had the lowest crime rate in the Tees Valley.

The Chief Inspector informed members of a new system/scheme Stockton were involved with called I Quanta. Stockton were 1 of 15 forces to pilot the scheme with the objective being citizen focused to reduce the public's fear of crime within their residential areas by measuring the public's feelings alongside crime statistics. The Chief Inspector reported that Stockton's Police Force were currently in the top 3 of the 15 participating forces.

Members also discussed the current national issues surrounding gun and knife crime to which The Chief Inspector reported that Stockton did not have the same problem as was reported nationally.

Questions were raised regarding violent crimes including domestic issues and also police response times to public reporting of crime. The Chief Inspector for Stockton stated how they prioritise calls made to the police in respect of response times and also how serious they view domestic violence and how they prioritise such cases.

RESOLVED that:-

The report be received.

**HCS  
12/08**

### **Progress Updates on previously agreed recommendations**

Members of the Committee were presented with the progress updates on previously agreed recommendations for the following reviews:-

1. Anti Social Behaviour 2006
2. Choice Based Lettings 2007

In relation to recommendation number 5 of the ASB review, Members were informed of an out of hours service ran by Tristar to be used by it's tenants and other members of the public to report unacceptable behaviour such as Anti Social Behaviour. The Committee were also informed that the service would be extended to office hours in addition to the current out of hours service as of the 1st July 2008. It was agreed that all Members and key personnel should receive the information about the new service including contact details to enable them to inform residents. The assessment of progress was amended from a 1 to a 2.

In relation to the CBL review Members accepted the assessment of progress report with the exception of number 4 where it was discussed in detail that to further understand the full cost implications of a one stop shop approach they would need an updated cost analysis and also the attendance of a Tristar representative at the next Committee Meeting to answer further queries the committee may have in relation to the update.

RESOLVED that:-

- 1.The progress reports be agreed and amended as described above, and further updates be received as appropriate.
2. Members would receive the information and contact details for the out of hours service.
3. Feasibility/cost analysis of one stop shop approach to be discussed at the next meeting of the committee.

**HCS**  
**13/08**      **Review of registered social landlords**

The Members of the committee were presented with evidence for the review of registered social landlords from Stockton's Housing Need Manager and Stockton's Community Safety Manager.

The Committee were presented with the following key points:-

1. Increase in demand for rentable properties
2. Housing Corporation expectations
3. Common procedures across other authorities and local associations
4. Nomination rights
5. Homelessness
6. No. of voids within Stockton's own housing stock.
7. Stockton's approach to dealing with Anti Social Behaviour

It was noted that RSL involvement in choice based lettings would increase transparency in lettings across the whole social rented sector. The eventual aim was for all RSL lets to be managed through CBL. Members requested a breakdown of nominations lets including regeneration figures. It was reported that one of the RSL's within the borough employs it's own ASB team whereas others buy into the services provided by the Council's ASB team. In Stockton borough all ASBOs and CRASBOs are applied for through the Council resulting in more effective monitoring compared to that of other areas for example where housing associations can apply for ASBOs/CRASBOs seperately.

RESOLVED that:-

The evidence be noted.

**HCS**     **Work Programme**  
**14/08**

Arrangements were made for a site visit on 10th July 2008 to visit various RSL schemes.

Members were provided with a draft copy of a survey to go to RSL's operating within the borough, Members were asked to provide comments before it was distributed.

RESOLVED that:-

The work programme be noted.