

Housing & Community Safety Select Committee

A meeting of Housing & Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday, 25th September, 2008.

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

Officers: Jane Edmends, Julie Higgins (DNS), Kirsty Wannop, Sarah Whaley, Peter Mennear (LD).

Also in attendance: None

Apologies: Cllr Bill Woodhead

HCS 26/08

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs Trainer declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.4 –Review of Registered Social Landlords as she was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Gibson declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.4 –Review of Registered Social Landlords as he was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Mrs Cherrett declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.4 –Review of Registered Social Landlords as she was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Cllr Bill Noble declared a declared personal/non prejudicial interest in agenda item no. 4- Review of Registered Social Landlords, as a tenant of a Registered Social Landlord.

HCS 27/08

Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th September 2008 - For Approval

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2008.

RESOLVED that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2008 be forwarded to Council.

HCS 28/08

Review of Registered Social Landlords

To review the evidence received and draft recommendations.

Consideration was given to a report that was to aid Members when drafting recommendations for the review of Registered Social Landlords (RSLs). The evidence was themed in order to group together sections of evidence.

Members then drafted recommendations in relation to the following issues:

- Improving communication between the Council and RSL partners
- Encouraging RSLs to be part of the Housing and Neighbourhood Partnership

- Developing a preferred partner framework to use when choosing future development partners in the Borough, and to encourage its use by private developers when delivering affordable housing elements of s.106 agreements
- Developing an annual review process for non-developer RSL partners
- Sharing best practice regarding community investment within the Borough
- Identifying best practice in relation to s106 negotiations
- Regular reports on general housing market to come back to the Committee and all Members as appropriate
- Ensuring the Housing service continues to investigate housing initiatives, including 'mortgage rescue schemes'.

In addition, Members requested that an informal meeting of the Committee was held in the near future in order to receive updates on the current housing situation, its effect on both the private and social housing sectors in the Borough, and to be updated on local and national initiatives. It was requested that all Members would be notified of the meeting should they wish to attend.

Members also requested further information on the role of the new Homes and Communities Agency.

RESOLVED that the recommendations be included in the draft report of the Committee's work and for this to be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

**HCS
29/08**

Work Programme

- . To review the project plan in respect of the current review.**
- . To discuss ideas for future review topics**

Members considered the Work Programme of the Committee.

RESOLVED that the work programme be noted.