

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

A meeting of Housing & Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday, 18th December, 2008.

**Present:** Cllr Julia Cherrett(Vice-Chairman), Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Mrs Suzanne Fletcher, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Bill Noble, Cllr Bill Woodhead

**Officers:** Julie Higgins, Dave Pickard, Caroline Wood, Dave Kitching, Mike Batty(DNS), Sarah Whaley, Judith Trainer, Kirsty Wannop(LD)

**Also in attendance:** Inspector Andy Fox, Ron Baker(Cleveland Police), Anne Howard(Chair of Stockton District Neighbourhood Watch), Mr F.W Hayes(Standards Committee Observer), Mr C. Nestor(Standards Committee Observer)

**Apologies:** Cllr Mrs Allison Trainer, Cllr Mrs Liz Nesbitt

### **HCS 40/08**

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Woodhead declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.5 –Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Action Plan - Review of Registered Social Landlords and agenda item 6 - Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Progress Updates(Choice Based Lettings) as he was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Gibson declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.5 –Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Action Plan - Review of Registered Social Landlords and agenda item 6 - Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Progress Updates(Choice Based Lettings) 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.5 –Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Action Plan - Review of Registered Social Landlords and agenda item 6 - Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Progress Updates(Choice Based Lettings) as he was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Cllr Bill Noble declared a declared personal/non prejudicial interest in agenda item no.5 –Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Action Plan - Review of Registered Social Landlords and agenda item 6 - Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations - Progress Updates(Choice Based Lettings) as a tenant of a Registered Social Landlord.

### **HCS 41/08**

#### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th September 2008 and 16th October 2008.**

Minutes of the meetings held on the 25th September 2008 and 16th October 2008 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### **HCS 42/08**

#### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th November 2008**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2008.

CONCLUDED that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2008 were approved and forwarded to Council.

**HCS  
43/08      Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations  
             - Action Plan - Review of Registered Social Landlords**

Members of the Committee were presented with an action plan relating to the previously agreed recommendations for the review of Registered Social Landlords. The Committee agreed for an initial progress report on the actions to be submitted to the Committee in June 2009.

CONCLUDED that the action plan be endorsed and a progress report be presented to the Committee in June 2009.

**HCS  
44/08      Monitoring of Previously Agreed Recommendations  
             - Progress Updates**

Members of the Committee were presented with the progress updates on previously agreed recommendations for the reviews of Anti Social behaviour and Choice Based Lettings. Members asked for an update on the Choice Based Lettings scheme in October 2009.

CONCLUDED that the updates on progress be agreed.

**HCS  
45/08      Review of Neighbourhood Policing/Neighbourhood Watch/CCTV**

Members were presented with information regarding Neighbourhood Watch from Ron Baker (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Cleveland Police). The Committee were informed that Neighbourhood Watch started in the 1980s. Neighbourhood Watch had the highest number of volunteers in the UK and in the district had just under 1,500 schemes, with 28,000 members. The scheme was run by volunteers who determined their own level of involvement.

Members were informed that information was sent to people registered as a Neighbourhood Watch member via telephone call, text, e-mail or fax. The Committee were informed that they could be part of Council Watch where Members received updates which informed them of incidents in their ward. Members were also informed that crime was going down and agreed that they had a role in getting this message to people in their ward. The Committee highlighted the confusion about whether residents were members of Neighbourhood Watch.

Members also received information from the Trading Standards and Licensing Manager regarding the 'No Cold Calling' scheme that was being promoted in the Borough. The Committee were informed that it educated vulnerable people about doorstep crime.

CONCLUDED that the information be noted.

**HCS  
46/08**

**Work Programme**

Members discussed the scope and project plan for the current review and were advised of the issues that would be considered at the next meeting. Members were asked to forward any specific questions for the next meeting to the scrutiny officer.

CONCLUDED that the work programme be noted.