

Housing & Community Safety Select Committee

A meeting of Housing & Community Safety Select Committee was held on Thursday, 25th February, 2010.

Present: Cllr Julia Cherrett(Chairman), Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Jean Kirby, Cllr Bill Noble, Cllr Bill Woodhead

Officers: Mike Batty, Melanie Howard(DNS) Andy Bryson(RES), Peter Mennear, Sarah Whaley (LD)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Bob Cook, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr Allison Trainer

HCS 40/09 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Woodhead declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.5 – Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations of Choice Based Lettings, Registered Social Landlords and Neighbourhood Watch as he was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Councillor Cherrett declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item no.5 – Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations of Choice Based Lettings, Registered Social Landlords and Neighbourhood Watch as she was a member of the Tristar Management Board.

Cllr Bill Noble declared a personal/non prejudicial interest in relation to agenda item no.5 – Quarterly Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations of Registered Social Landlords as a tenant of a Registered Social Landlord and also in relation to item no. 6 - Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Review of Regulatory Services, as he was a Member of the River Tees Port Health Authority.

Cllr Jackie Earl declared a personal prejudicial interest in relation to item no. 6, Efficiency, Improvement & Transformation Review of Regulatory Services in particular Houses with Multiple Occupation (HMO's) as Cllr Earl was herself a Landlord of an HMO. Cllr Earl left the room during the discussion of this item.

HCS 41/09 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th August 2009 and the 8th October 2009 to be considered for signature.**

Minutes of the meetings held on 27th August 2009 and 8th October 2009 were signed by the chair as a correct record.

HCS 42/09 **Minutes from the Meetings held on 25th November 2009 the 30th November 2009 and the 8th December 2009 to be considered for signature.**

Minutes of the meetings held on 25th November 2009 the 30th November 2009 and the 8th December 2009 were signed by the chair as a correct record.

HCS 43/09 **Draft minutes of the meeting held on the 7th January 2010 to be considered for approval.**

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 7th January

2010.

CONCLUDED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th January 2010 were approved as a correct record.

**HCS
44/09**

Quarterly Progress Update on Previously Agreed Recommendations

Members were asked to consider the assessments of progress contained within the attached Progress Updates on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations. There were outstanding recommendations from the reviews of Choice Based Lettings, registered Social Landlords, and Neighbourhood Policing/CCTV/Neighbourhood Watch.

The Committee agreed to the recommendations contained within the report with the exception of Neighbourhood Watch 4a and 4c. These recommendations were in relation to improving the format and content of the electronic updates provided by the Ringmaster System where members felt these had not been fully achieved and needed to be changed as follows:

4a to be changed from a 1 (fully achieved) to a 3 (slipped)

4c to be changed from a 1 (fully achieved) to a 2 (on Track).

It was agreed that representatives of Neighbourhood Watch be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee in order to update the Committee in relation to progress on recommendation 4.

CONCLUDED that the progress of the reports be noted and amendments be made as detailed above, further updates be received as appropriate, and that representatives of Neighbourhood Watch be requested to attend a meeting of the Committee.

**HCS
45/09**

Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation Review of Regulatory Services - to consider the draft final report

Members were requested to consider the final draft report for the Review of Regulatory Services.

Cllr Cherrett introduced the report to the Committee and asked Members to comment on each recommendation. In addition, the following recommendations were proposed and accepted by the Committee:

R1 - In relation to Trading Standards it was proposed that more information was to be made available on Stockton Borough Councils Website for residents in the form of template letters etc, which would provide a more self service approach for members of the public.

R2 - Members were supplied with an updated version of the schedule of fees for

the mandatory licensing of houses of multiple occupation. The Committee accepted and agreed to this update, and to include it in its final report.

R8 – Members agreed to invite the taxi trade to a future meeting of the committee in order to hear their concerns in relation to taxi licensing. The results of an objection to the Council's accounts placed with the Audit Commission by the trade were reported to the Committee. The Audit Commission had decided not to uphold the objection to Stockton's Accounts for the 2008/09 financial year, although the Commission had made some minor recommendations for the Council to take on board.

Cllr Cherrett suggested that the taxi trade be invited to the next Housing and Community Safety Meeting to be held on 22nd April 2010.

In relation to recommendation 3, the Head of Community Protection confirmed to members that a meeting had taken place with Tees Valley Directors in relation to the River Tees Health Authority and the recommendations contained within the report were agreed in principle.

R4, 5, 6 & 7 were agreed by the Committee to be forwarded to cabinet on the 11 March 2010.

CONCLUDED that the views of the Committee be taken into account in the submission of options to Cabinet on 11th March 2010.