

MEMBERS POLICY SEMINAR PROGRAMME

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with an overview of content from the Members Policy Seminar in September 2014 that include a presentation from the Thirteen Housing Group and an opportunity for members to be consulted on the proposals in Phase 2 of the revisions to the Council's web site.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Council are recommended to:

1. Receive this report and note its contents.

BACKGROUND

1. Members Policy Seminars are an important vehicle for both informing and consulting with Members on a variety of topics from Policy and Legislative changes, contributions to Government consultations, and providing an update on local service provision from partner organisations. They have been in place since January 2009 and are particularly useful for those issues which are of importance to the Council or partners but are in the early stages of development, or those which will be of interest to Members, out with the usual reporting arrangements.
2. A programme of seminars is set annually with events planned on a monthly basis. Topics are reviewed monthly by the Corporate Management Team to ensure issues are current and discussions and information provision is timely. Special, additional seminars are arranged as required.

SUMMARY OF THE TOPIC COVERED IN SEPTEMBER 2014

3. Colleagues from the Thirteen Housing group attended the seminar to provide an update on the work on going with properties and support for residents in the borough. The presentation also included an update on the recent changes at Tristar/ Thirteen providing a reassurance and commitment to their continued work with residents and elected members across the Stockton area. The presentation included the following aspects:
 - Update on the current transition arrangements of Tristar/ Thirteen Group
 - The opportunities and challenges facing the group going forward
 - An update on the delivery promises made a stock transfer
 - Future plans for the building of new homes, upgrading programme of existing stock and the support provided by the group to tenants
 - Key priorities for the future
 - Details of Neighbourhood Structures and key contact details.

4. The second item provided an opportunity to consult with elected members of the further developments proposed for the council's internet. The presentation provided detail on the following aspects:
 - The purpose of the upgrade
 - Background to the changes made to date
 - Visuals of the new/ existing site
 - The links to other web related projects on going across the council
 - Some key facts and figures on current / historical usage
 - The consultation/ communication plan for the Phase 2 developments
 - Timetable for the planned developments and launch.
5. All slides, agenda and supporting material from the seminars can be accessed at <http://kyit.stockton.gov.uk/members/policyupdatesessions>
6. A regular update report on members seminar events held will be provided to Council at each meeting going forward.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

7. There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report.

Legal

8. There are no legal implications arising as a direct result from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

9. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10. This report is not subject to Equality Impact Assessment as it makes no proposals for service development or policy change.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

11. Members Policy Seminars help the Council achieve all its objectives as outlined in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

12. No external consultation has taken place on this report.

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[Background Papers](#)

Slides/ Presentation from the member seminar programmes.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Members Policy Seminars affect all wards in the Borough.

Property

This report has no implications for the Council's Capital Programme and Asset Management Plan.