

Environment Select Committee

A meeting of Environment Select Committee was held on Monday, 14th October, 2013.

Present: Cllr Nigel Cooke (Chairman), Cllr David Wilburn (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Derrick Brown, Cllr Jean Kirby and Cllr Steve Walmsley.

Officers: Jane Edmonds (DNS); Graham Birtle, Peter Bell (LDS).

Also in attendance: Tracey Rix-Mason (Vela Group), Emma Watson, Jenny Shotton, Liz Kaden (Tenant Scrutiny Residents Tristar).

Apologies: Cllr Ray McCall, Cllr Mrs Maureen Rigg, Cllr Mick Womphrey and Cllr Bill Woodhead.

1 Committee Briefing

Members agreed their approach to the meeting.

2 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

3 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

4 Draft Minutes - 9th September 2013

Consideration was given to the draft minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2013.

AGREED the minutes be approved.

5 Minutes for Signature - 15th July 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2013 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

6 Review of the Performance of Housing Providers

Members were given opportunity as part of the scrutiny review and the 'promises' that were made at stock transfer to meet with residents and support officers who had taken part in scrutiny reviews. Members were provided with a brief background to tenant scrutiny from the Centre for Public Scrutiny's publication 'Top tips for tenants: holding your landlord to account through scrutiny' that included the four principles and benefits for each outlined.

Members viewed a short film that gave an outline of the scrutiny work that had been carried out by the residents.

Members were then given the opportunity to make comment and ask questions of the residents and the Tristar supporting officer. The key points were:-

- * The number of volunteers for the residents scrutiny function has recently reduced so Tristar Scrutiny was in the process of being merged with Hartlepool Housing Scrutiny to oversee the Vela Group
- * The residents have felt supported during the scrutiny reviews
- * The first review had been resident led
- * Residents views were easy to gather
- * Residents surveys are made available to residents

Members thanked the residents for their attendance at the meeting and the valuable work that they had carried out.

AGREED the information be noted.

7 Work Programme

Members were provided with the work programme for the Committee.

The work programme for the committee was noted.

8 Chair's Update

The Chair congratulated the Care For Your Area team on their recent success in the Britain in Bloom Awards.