

Housing and Community Safety Select Committee

Review of the Development of Choice Based Lettings [CBL]

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 24 October 2006

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

The Committee held their second meeting of the review on 12 October. The meeting was combined with a site visit to Erimus Homechoice in Middlesbrough. This allowed the Committee to experience the operation of an existing Choice Based Lettings scheme.

The Committee visited the Homechoice 'property shop' on the first day of a bidding cycle and so were able to observe the bidding process in action during a busy period for staff and customers. Members were able to speak to and receive evidence from Julia Kett (Sub-Regional CBL Co-ordinator) and Chris Joynes (Assistant Director, Erimus Housing). Members were able to get an in-depth look at the operation of the Homechoice scheme.

Plans are also being finalised for a similar visit to Your Choice Homes, in Newcastle.

Timescale for Review

The review is on schedule with a view to the final report being presented to Cabinet in March 2007.