

**Housing and Community Select Committee**  
**Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 8 May 2012**

**Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)**

**Review of Tobacco Control**

The tripartite meeting was held on 20 April. The review is in two phases, firstly regulation and enforcement then health issues. The scope and project plan for phase one was agreed by the Committee on 26 April 2012.

The main issues

Smoking remains the single preventable cause of premature death in the UK today. Around half of long-term smokers will eventually die as a result and approximately 15 people a day die in the North East alone. Stockton is significantly higher than the national average for the number of smoke related deaths each year.

The overall aim / objectives in doing this work is:

- To examine the supply of tobacco including:
- Enforcement measures against illegal trading in tobacco;
- Under-age sales and the sales of smuggled and counterfeit cigarettes

The Committee will meet with the following before the August recess to gather evidence:

- Trading Standards
- Environmental Health
- Neighbourhood Enforcement
- Licensing/Noise
- CFYA
- FRESH NE
- Police
- HMRC

Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet on 29 November 2012

**Review of Community Safety and Security Services**

The Committee agreed the action plan for the recently completed EIT review which showed that three of the four recommendations were completed. Only the reduction in the contribution to the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit was outstanding awaiting Hartlepool Council raising the necessary invoices to complete the final recommendation.

**Overview Meetings**

The Committee received its annual overview of Housing Services from Julie Nixon, Jane Edmonds, Melanie Howard, Caroline Wood, Julie Higgins, and Linda Stephenson on 26 April 2012.

Priorities for 2012 and beyond were identified as being:

- To promote and sustain independence
- To prevent and tackle homelessness across all tenures
- To meet the challenges of the housing market
- Promote sustainable communities, and

- Welfare Reform
  - Benefit Cap
  - Social Housing under-occupation
  - Local Council Tax Benefit replacement
  - Single Fraud Investigation Service
  - Universal Credit

The overview of Police and Community Safety services is to be presented on 7 June 2012.