

# Place Select Committee

A meeting of Place Select Committee was held on Monday, 11th January, 2016.

**Present:** Cllr Derrick Brown(Chairman), Cllr Chris Barlow, Cllr Evaline Cunningham, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr Maurice Perry, Cllr Rachael Proud, Cllr Mrs Sylvia Walmsley, Cllr Bill Woodhead, Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E(Vice Cllr Bailey)

**Officers:** Dale Rowbotham, Jamie McCann, Marc Stephenson, Craig Willows(DCS), Jane Edmends(DEGD), Graham Birtle and Kirsty Wannop(DCE)

**Also in attendance:** Dave Pickard and Kay Glew.

**Apologies:** Cllr Sonia Bailey.

## **1 Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Norma Stephenson declared a personal no prejudicial interests in item titled Monitoring the implementation of previously agreed recommendations as she was a Tristar tenant.

## **2 Minutes for Signature - 2nd November 2015**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2015 were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

## **3 Draft Minutes - 7th December 2015**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2015.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

## **4 Monitoring the implementation of previously agreed recommendations**

The Committee was provided with an update on the Monitoring of the previously agreed recommendation from the Review of Housing Providers. An update was given at the 5th anniversary of the Large Scale Stock Transfer to update on the promises made.

The main information provided included:-

- Thirteen Group was formed from Fabrick and Vela housing groups.
- Over 32,000 properties owned and managed by its four landlord partners: Erimus, Housing Hartlepool, Tees Valley Housing and Tristar.
- £103m 5-year investment plan and details on how it was spent.
- £11m medium and high rise flats improvements.
- £9m upgrade to non-traditional properties.
- Details of the services provided along with statistics.
- The new homes that were being built.
- Challenges Thirteen Group faced.

Members were then given opportunity to asked questions/make comments that could be summarised as follows:-

- Of the 200 plus promises that were made in the offer document which were not achieved? The only promises that were not achieved were due to changes in Housing Policy.
- Why were water rates were no longer going to be included in the rent? Not all customers paid their water rates making it costly for Thirteen Group. Why was there a plan to demolition some garages? Some were too costly to repair therefore are being demolished. Details of the garages in the Borough and who they belong to would be circulated to Members.

AGREED that

1. the assessments of progress be agreed.
2. the further information requested be circulated to Members.

## **5 Scrutiny Review of Kerbside Waste Collection**

Members considered a summary report that detailed information that the Committee had received during the Review of Kerbside Waste Collection. The main information received included:-

- Details of what was collected now and how regularly it was collected.
- Current recycling statistics. Stockton was ranked 331 of 352, in 2014/15 Stockton had a recycling rate of 26.6%, the national target for England was 45%.
- Details of the site visit made by the Committee to J&B Recycling Ltd to see how the recycling material collected by the authority was sorted/treated and also to visit the EFW plant at Haverton Hill in order to understand the green wheeled bin waste disposal process.
- Benchmarking figures of how Stockton compares to Tees Valley local authorities and other local authorities that had similar characteristics.
- Details of the findings from the M.E.L composition analysis and what the drivers for recycling were.

Members were then given opportunity to ask questions/make comments that could be summarised as follows:-

- Could something better be used than the current recycling bags which can be easily blown away when empty causing frustration amongst residents? It was not envisaged that this would change as it helps to make sure the recycling material was of the right standard, not contaminated and easier to sort when collecting.
- A need to educate residents on recycling and what it could achieve for Stockton.

AGREED that the information be noted.

## **6 Work Programme**

The Committee noted its work programme. Members were also asked to send any ideas for future Review topics to the Scrutiny team for selection into next years work programme.

## **7 Chair's Update**

The Chair had nothing to update.

