



The current chair of SSP, Geoff Lee, was appointed chair of the partnership in 2005 following Dave Pickard's transfer from Stockton District to Police Headquarters. Geoff originally joined the partnership from the original date of its formation following implementation of the Crime and Disorder Act, as Chair of SSP and representative of Cleveland Police. Following his retirement he returned to the partnership in 2005 as a representative of Tristar Homes. After 12 ½ years his tenure as a Tristar Board member ended on 15 September. Under the terms of the current SSP constitution this means that Geoff will no longer be a member of SSP.

#### **4.3. SUGGESTED WAY FORWARD**

The partnership is currently adapting to a number of significant changes that have occurred within some of its member organisations, in particular Cleveland Police and Durham Tees Valley Probation. In addition to this the wider community safety landscape across Tees Valley is changing placing a greater strain on resources and the effective sustainability of partnerships.

The SSP is regarded as one of the strongest partnerships across the Tees Valley and as such sustainability over the coming months is essential. In order to ensure consistency over this period, Geoff Lee has indicated his willingness to be adopted as an independent member of SSP and to Chair of SSP for the duration of the current meeting cycle which ends on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015. After this time the partnership will need to identify a new Chair. It is proposed that the SSP agrees to Geoff continuing in his role at the AGM which is due to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

Although Geoff has represented Tristar Homes on the partnership for the duration of his tenure as Chair, he has operated in an independent manner. This approach has served the partnership well, contributing to its overall success and integrity among member organisations.

The appointment of an Independent Chair post May 2015 will also bring the cycle of SSP meetings in line with the municipal diary which will be of benefit in terms of the ongoing administration arrangements.

It is therefore recommended that the SSP considers the appointment of an independent Chair, post May 2015. Leading up to this point the partnership has enough time to develop a suitable role description and agree a suitable process to ensure that the correct individual is identified.

An independent Chair will ensure that the partnership continues to discuss issues and challenge developments in an effective and equitable manner, ensuring that the Chair retains overall accountability.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Geoff Lee continues as chair of the Safer Stockton Partnership until the end of the current meeting cycle, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015

It is recommended that the Safer Stockton Partnership approve the appointment of an independent chair, post May 2015.

### **5. Register of Interests**

SSP members will have received via email a declaration form which needs to be completed and returned by the end of October. This process was agreed at SSP in May 2009 and has been completed on an annual basis.

Steven Hume  
Community Safety and Security Manager