

Minutes

Meeting of : Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Meeting held in : The Meeting Room, City Hall, Salisbury
Date : Wednesday 12 September 2007
Commencing at : 6.00 pm

District Councillors:

Councillor J A Cole-Morgan (Chairman)
Councillor B M Rycroft (Vice-Chairman)

Mrs J A Green, M A Hewitt, D J Luther, C G Mills, I M Mitchell, Mrs J Broom, Mrs C J M Morrison, J English, Mrs S Dennis and M J Osment.

Councillor Tomes, Portfolio Holder for Housing was also in attendance

Tenants Panel:

Mr A Wells, J Hinnis, T Watson and Mrs Jewell

Apologies: Mr D Edwards (Tenants Panel), Mrs I M Evans

Present - Officers:

Tom Bray and Steve Milton (Democratic Services) Derek Streek (Head of Housing Management) Reg Williams (Parks Manager)

27. Public Questions / Statement Time

Mr J Hinnis requested that the Panel appoint members to attend the Tenants Panel meetings. The Chairman agreed and it was considered at the end of the meeting.

Resolved: that Councillors Cole-Morgan, Mrs Evans, Mrs Green and Mills be appointed to attend Tenants panel meetings.

28. Councillor Questions/Statement Time

There were none.

29. Minutes:

Resolved: that, subject to the inclusion of Councillor S Dennis on the list of apologies, the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 21st August 2007 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

30. **Declarations of Interests:**

Councillor M Hewitt declared a personal interest due to his participation in Wiltshire's Supporting People Programme. No matters relating to this arose at the meeting.

31. **Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman asked the sub-group, who are looking at all aspects of the Vision, to give an update of their progress. Councillor Mitchell outlined the main issues raised by the group. Concerns were raised about the Salisbury city centre focus of the Vision and that the balance of development needs to be closely monitored taking into consideration the need for improved infrastructure.

The Chairman also updated the Panel as to the progress of the Vision sub-group looking at cultural aspects. He stated that the group has the backing of the Vision's Project Manager.

Mrs Jewel, of the Tenants Panel, requested that pollution levels be measured in New Canal, as she was concerned about the number of waiting vehicles in that area of the City.

32. **Scrutiny Review Programme:**

Members were tasked with identifying their annual Scrutiny Review Programme.

1. Review of swimming lessons at 5 Rivers

This issue has been recently reviewed, therefore the Panel decided not to carry out a review.

2. Review of the effect of extended licensing hours on Salisbury's nightlife.

The Panel considered this an area of interest but members stressed the importance of extending the review to look at the whole district.

Resolved – that

- (1) Councillors Luther, Broom, English and Osment be members of the review group, with the first meeting to be coordinated by the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman.
- (2) the review title be changed to read - Review of the effects of extended licensing hours on Salisbury District's nightlife.

3. Review of the plans for change at the Crematorium.

The Panel received an update from the Parks Manager about the future changes needed at the Crematorium.

Resolved – Councillors Hewitt, Mills, Morrison, and Green be members on the light touch review group.

The following policies on the Cabinet Work Program were also considered:

4. Review of management of leisure facilities

This issue will be covered under the Local Government Reorganisation transition process, therefore the Panel decided not to carry out a review.

5. The use of the Guildhall

This issue could depend on the outcome of the formulation of a Salisbury City Council, therefore the Panel decided not to carry out a review.

6. Service Charge review for Council housing

The Panel received an update from the Head of Housing Management on the state of the Service charge Review for Council Housing.

Resolved – That Councillors Hewitt, Mitchell and Green and Mr J Hinnis from the Tenants Panel be members on the review group.

7. Gypsy & Travellers Housing Needs Survey

The Panel considered this a Wiltshire County Council matter, therefore the Panel decided not to carry out a review.

8. Choice based Letting

Due to the lack of capacity for further reviews and the advanced stage of the policy, the Panel decided not to carry out a review.

33. Performance Management Report:

The Panel considered the previously circulated report of the Performance Improvement Manager and the Principal Democratic Services Manager. Members discussed Salisbury District Council targets used in performance reporting and suggested that the targets need to be explained, especially when they change.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

*Meeting closed at 7.45 pm
Members of the Public: 0*