

Minutes

Meeting of : Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Meeting held in : The Meeting Room, City Hall, Salisbury
Date : Wednesday 14 November 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.

Tenants Panel:

Mr Loggie, J Hinnis, T Watson and Mrs Jewell

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

Present - Officers:

Tom Bray (Democratic Services) Robin Townsend (Head of Community Initiatives)

34. Public Questions / Statement Time

Mr C Duller submitted a question regarding Council Housing at Essex Square in the West Harnham Area. The Chairman read out his letter and confirmed that a written response to this letter would be provided for Mr Duller, along with a response from the tenant's panel, which asked to include the letter in their forthcoming Tenants Panel meeting.

35. Councillor Questions/Statement Time

Councillor Hewitt updated Members on the health of Councillor Kevin Wren who was taken ill earlier in the week. The Panel sent their best wishes for his recovery.

36. Minutes:

Resolved: that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 12th September 2007 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



37. Declarations of Interests:

There were none.

38. Chairman's Announcements:

In light of concerns raised at the last meeting by Members of the Panel regarding Air Quality in the City Centre, the Chairman drew their attention to a report of the Team Leader (Pollution & Housing) from Environmental Services regarding the designation of an Air Quality Management Area for the Salisbury city centre as an indication of the Council's work in monitoring air pollution.

The Chairman also informed Members that the Salisbury Trust for the Homeless needs a representative from Community and Housing Overview and scrutiny Panel.

Resolved – that Councillor J English serves on the Salisbury Trust for the Homeless.

39. The Salisbury Vision – Arts and Culture Sub-Group:

The Panel considered the previously circulated report of The Salisbury Vision Arts and Culture Sub-Group. The Chairman introduced the report, emphasising the important role that the group thinks creative industries could play in generating greater wealth, employment and vibrancy in Salisbury. It was confirmed that senior officers involved in The Salisbury Vision support and commend the work of the sub-group.

With regard to furthering this ambition for the Vision and more generally the well being of the city, concern was expressed regarding the possible loss of degree level education in the creative industries at the Salisbury College as a result of the intended merger with Wiltshire College.

Recommended to Cabinet – that:

1. The Salisbury Vision should positively encourage creative industries in Salisbury District to benefit both the economic and social well being of south Wiltshire. And;
2. They support, promote and lobby for Salisbury College to be the County's centre of excellence for creative industries education and thus ensure the continued provision of higher education level arts tuition in south Wiltshire.

40. Review of the effects of extended licensing hours on Salisbury's night time economy:

The Panel considered the previously circulated report of the Scrutiny Support Officer. The lead member of the group, Councillor J Broom, gave a verbal update on the groups progress. She informed the Panel that the group would be visiting Salisbury city centre on Saturday night accompanying the police and attending the Council's CCTV unit. Furthermore, a series of interviews would be arranged with key stakeholders in the Salisbury District.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

41. Update on progress on Equality and Diversity:

The Panel considered the report (circulated at the meeting) and received a presentation from the Head of Community Initiatives regarding the Council's recent work in the area of Equality and Diversity. He outlined the role that scrutiny can play in ensuring standards are met and that the Council endeavours to consider equalities and diversity issues throughout all its operations. Members stated that simple guidance notes should be distributed to enable all members and officers to inform them of how to formally consider equality and diversity issues.

42. Cabinet Forward Plan:

The Panel considered the previously circulated Cabinet Forward Plan. The Panel considered the Housing revenue Account (HRA) Budget and Rent Setting decision matter as important and indicated that they would like to receive the report when it is due for consideration.

The Head of Community Initiative also informed the Panel that he would be preparing a report on investment in the 3 sports facilities in the district, to be considered by cabinet in December.

Resolved – that the Panel receives the report of the Head of Community Initiatives on sports facilities on its completion and considers it in a special meeting if deemed necessary before Cabinet meet in December.

43. **Any other business: The Salisbury Vision – Working Group on all aspects of the Vision:**
The Panel considered the above item under any other business as the Salisbury Vision is due to be considered by Cabinet in January. The Chairman felt it important that the work of the sub-group is discussed and any pertinent contributions should be fed into the Cabinet for their consideration. Councillor I Mitchell addressed the Panel, outlining the work carried out by the sub-group.

Resolved – that:

1. The group immediately circulates their findings via email to all members of the Panel.
2. That a special meeting is arranged to consider the finding of the sub-group prior to the meeting of Cabinet on 16th January 2008.

*Meeting closed at 8.20 pm
Members of the Public: 0*