

Minutes

Meeting of : Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Meeting held in : The Meeting Room, City Hall, Salisbury
Date : Wednesday 14 May 2008
Commencing at : 6.00 pm

District Councillors:

Councillor B M Rycroft (Vice-Chairman) – **IN THE CHAIR**
Councillor Mrs C J M Morrison – Vice-Chairman for the meeting

Mrs J A Green, M A Hewitt, D J Luther, C G Mills, I M Mitchell, Mrs J Broom, R Britton (substituting for J A Cole-Morgan), J English and M J Osment.

Councillor Tomes, Portfolio Holder for Housing, was also in attendance.

Tenants Panel:

Mr J Hinnis ,Mrs Jewell and Mr Watkins

Apologies: Councillors J A Cole-Morgan, Mrs S Dennis, Mrs I M Evans, Mrs J Green, I Mitchell, Mr Loggie (Tenants Panel)

Present - Officers:

Robin Townsend and Kelly Bagley (Community Initiatives) and Tom Bray (Democratic Services)

60. Public Questions / Statement Time

There were none.

61. Councillor Questions/Statement Time

Councillor Green submitted a question prior to the meeting regarding the choice based letting scheme. She stated that she had previously requested that the Western Area Committee receive an update on the scheme as she felt that ward members needed more information on the scheme in order to deal with any cases brought to their attention by residents. In response to this question, Andrew Reynolds scheduled to attend the Western Area Committee to give a full update to members regarding choice based lettings in the district.

62. Minutes:

Resolved: that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 12th March 2008(previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



63. Declarations of Interests:

There were none.

64. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman updated the Panel on the health of Councillor John Cole-Morgan stating that he would be due to return home on June 5th 2008. The Panel sent Councillor Cole-Morgan its best wishes.

65. Housing Issues in the District:

Councillor I Tomes, the Portfolio Holder for Housing, updated the Panel on activities within the housing portfolio. He stated that the three main housing priorities were the delivery of effective core services, improvements in tenant participation and to investigate any relevant changes in national housing policy that will benefit the district. He outlined the key activities within each of the priority areas and also gave an update on the effects of the changes to a unitary council. He commended the council officers involved in the transition to the unitary authority and thanked them for their continued hard work.

Given the current situation whereby the district will be amalgamating its housing service with the other four districts in the county, the Panel felt it necessary to investigate further the key housing issues that face the district and county as a whole. Taking into consideration the work of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Housing Review Group already established under the joint scrutiny arrangements, the Panel discussed how they could ensure that their input and concerns were considered.

Resolved – That a task group of Councillors Broom, English and Hewitt and Mr Watkins of the Tenants Panel be established and carry out the following tasks:

1. Refer to the terms of reference and work to date of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Housing Review Group.
2. The task group should meet to discuss the appropriate course of action and to feed their comments into the next meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Housing Review Group on 6th June 2008.
3. The task group should report back to the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel at the next meeting on 23rd July 2008 to inform the Panel on their activities and proposed course of action.

66. Community Safety Performance: update by Chief Inspector Alward and Kelly Bagley:

The Panel received a verbal update from Chief Inspector Alward on community safety issues in the district. Handouts were circulated at the meeting and also circulated electronically after the meeting. Members acknowledged that the distribution of police statistics to individual parishes would be a very useful exercise. Members agreed that this might help to create a better local impression of the police and convey that they have a comprehensive understanding of the district.

Members also discussed the merits of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Members stated that on the whole the NPT's had been effective. The panel also discussed the renaming of the NPT's to Neighbourhood Teams to reflect the team's multi stakeholder involvement.

Resolved – that

1. the update be noted.
2. Chief Inspector Alward explores ways of delivering up to date and regular local crime figures to parishes across the district.
3. Chief Inspector Alward considers changing the name of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams to Neighbourhood Teams to reflect the team's multi-stakeholder involvement.

67. Joint Overview and Scrutiny Housing Review Update:

The Panel considered the previously circulated housing review update.

Resolved – that the update be noted.

68. Update on Wiltshire College:

The Panel considered the written statement from the Principal of Wiltshire College, which was circulated at the meeting.

Resolved – that the statement be noted.

69. Cabinet Forward Plan:

The Panel considered the previously circulated Cabinet Forward Plan.

Resolved – that the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.

*Meeting closed at 8.00 pm
Members of the Public: 0*