

Democratic Services
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Minutes

Meeting of : Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Meeting held in : The Alamein Suite, City Hall, Salisbury
Date : Wednesday 23 July 2008
Commencing at : 6.00 pm

District Councillors:

Councillor M A Hewitt (Chairman), B M Rycroft (Vice Chairman)

Present:

Councillors Ms J V Broom, R J Clewer, Mrs S L Dennis, J M English, Mrs I M Evans, Mrs J A Green, C G Mills, Ms C J M Morrison, I M Mitchell and M J Osment

Tenants Panel:

Mr Edwards, Mr Logie, Mrs Jewell and Mr Watkins

Present - Officers:

Derek Streek (Housing Services), Frank Dick (Performance Director) Tom Bray and Jade Hibberd (Democratic Services)

Apologies:

Councillors R Britton and D J Luther.

74. Public Questions / Statement Time:

There were none.

75. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:

Mrs Jewell of the Tenants Panel drew the attention of the Committee to congestion problems arising due to school run traffic close to Council housing in Wilton. Derek Streek informed Members that the best approach would be to write a letter to the headmaster of the school requesting that he ask parents to be more careful.

Councillor Broom informed the Panel that due to capacity issues the Extended Licensing Hours scrutiny review had gone on longer than expected. Councillor Broom confirmed that a new timescale had been proposed and she would be working with the officer to achieve this.



Awarded in:
Housing Services
Waste and Recycling Services



76. Minutes:

Councillor Green informed the panel that she was not in attendance at the last Community and Housing meeting on 14th May 2008 and requested that the minutes be amended to reflect this.

Resolved: that subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 14 May and the special meeting held on 19 May 2008 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

77. Declarations of Interest:

There were none.

78. Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairman stated that he wished the work of the Salisbury Health Scrutiny Panel to be absorbed by the Community and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel. He had agreed this in principle with the Head of Democratic Services subject to the relevant constitutional changes. The panel supported this proposal and the Chairman undertook to liaise with members of the Health Scrutiny Panel on the matter.

79. Performance Monitoring – End of Year Performance Data:

Frank Dick presented the previously circulated report to the panel. Members discussed the performance data and supported the need for more descriptive commentary on each indicator. Members also considered how they could address the marked increase in violent crime and vehicle crime.

Resolved – that the Community Safety Manager reports to the Panel on the violent and vehicle crime statistics at the next meeting and the Review Group looking at the effects of the extended licensing hours take the recent crime statistics into consideration.

80. Housing Issues in the District:

Derek Streek outlined the council's priorities and discussed the implications of Local Government Reorganisation.

Resolved – that the above be noted.

81. Joint Overview and Scrutiny Housing Review Update:

Councillor Fowler and Wiltshire County Council Officer Karen Linaker gave the panel an update from the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Housing Task Group. The panel expressed the view that there had not been adequate communication or explanation around this topic and that members' feelings about this should be communicated to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transition Board. Karen Linaker explained to the panel that West Wiltshire had expressed the same view, and that within the next month the Implementation Executive was due to issue portfolios which would give more focus to scrutiny overall.

Resolved – that

1. the panel register its dissatisfaction with the lack of progress and proper address to Salisbury's needs to the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Transition Board.
2. the service director be invited to attend the next meeting on 17th September.

82. Tenant Participation in the Unitary Authority:

The panel discussed what form tenant participation may take under the new Unitary authority. Derek Streek stated that there is currently not enough reassurance for tenants and that a proposal for a separate governance board may be the best option as this would give tenants more influence, but this idea would be explored further at a later date. He told members that this was a priority of Cabinet and that a review of tenants is already under way.

Resolved – that the above be noted.

83. Cabinet Forward Plan:

The Panel considered the previously circulated Cabinet Forward Plan.

Resolved – that the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.

*Meeting closed at: 20:04
Members of the Public: 0
Next meeting: 17th September 2008*