

**Democratic Services**  
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# Minutes

**Meeting of** : Community & Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel  
**Meeting held in** : The Meeting Room, City Hall, Salisbury  
**Date** : Wednesday 17 September 2008  
**Commencing at** : 6.00 pm

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**District Councillors:**

Councillor M A Hewitt (Chairman)

**Present:**

Councillors, J M English, Mrs J A Green, I M Mitchell and Westmoreland (Substitute for Cllr Rycroft)

**Tenants Panel:**

Mr Edwards, Mrs Jewell and Mr Southey

**Present - Officers:**

Tom Bray (Democratic Services)

**Apologies:**

Councillors J Broom, R J Clewer, Mrs S L Dennis, C Mills. Mr Logie

**84. Public Questions / Statement Time:**

There were none.

**85. Councillor Questions/Statement Time:**

Mrs. Jewell of the Tenants Panel requested an update on the Secret Garden at Bourne Hill. The Committee reassured her that plans were in place to restore the gardens back to its original state.

Councillor Green requested an update on the actions set out in the previous minutes. The coordinator of the meeting confirmed that the actions had been pursued and the Chairman requested an update on the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Housing Review Group's developments from the Council's representative Councillor Mike Fowler at the next meeting.

**86. Minutes:**

**Resolved:** that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on 23 July (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**87. Declarations of Interest:**

There were none.



*Awarded in:*  
Housing Services  
Waste and Recycling Services



**88. Chairman's Announcements:**

The Chairman informed Members about Wiltshire Primary Care Trust's next Board meeting, which would include the AGM, would be taking place on 23 September 2008 at 10am in The Hall at Salisbury Methodist Church. The Chairman also distributed the agenda for this meeting.

**89. Update on Housing Issues:**

Councillor Tomes, the Portfolio Holder for Housing addressed the Committee on a range of housing issues in the district.

Regarding tenant's participation he stated that a Tenant's Participation Strategy was being prepared and would be completed to go to Cabinet before Christmas. The Panel showed interest in viewing the strategy before it goes to Cabinet and therefore requested that it be brought to the meeting in November.

He also updated the Panel on housing developments with regard to unitary. He stated that the Council's existing Housing Management function would be remaining in Salisbury for the foreseeable future therefore very few changes would be made to the team led by the Head of Housing Management come vesting day. Members of the Panel raised concern over the County's distance and lack of experience in managing a housing stock. Although the Panel welcomed the arrangements outlined above, meaning that the housing stock will be managed in Salisbury, they were concerned that there are no separate governance arrangements in place to address the concerns of the tenants. It was also noted that the Strategic Housing function would be transformed into 5 separate countywide functions. Members also had a number of questions relating to housing which they requested be forwarded to the Service Director for Housing, Graham Hogg.

Regarding the 30 year Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan he informed the Panel that it would be going to Cabinet for its approval in October. Members of the Panel registered their interest in viewing the HRA Business Plan so that their comments could be forwarded to the Cabinet when they consider the item.

**Resolved** – that:

1. The Panel requests that the revised Tenant's Panel Participation Strategy be brought to the next meeting in November.
2. The Panel is concerned about the apparent lack of progress being made in defining the way Salisbury District's housing function will be managed in the new unitary authority. It particularly notes the concerns and anxieties being expressed by tenants. The Panel believes that a form of local governance board is the best way to fill the voids and recommends to Cabinet that it pursue this as a matter of urgency.
3. The a list of relevant questions on unitary related housing issues be forwarded to the Service Director.

**90. Interim Homelessness Strategy 2008 – 2009:**

The Panel considered the previously circulated report of the Head of Strategic Housing. The Panel congratulated the officer for delivering a comprehensive report and requested an update on all local homelessness figures.

**Resolved** – that the Panel requests an update on all local homelessness figures and for them to be circulated to all members of the Panel.

**91. Funding for Move-On Accommodation:**

The Panel considered the previously circulated report of the Head of Strategic Housing.

**Resolved** – that the report be noted.

**92. Cabinet Forward Plan:**

The Panel considered the previously circulated Cabinet Forward Plan. Members of the Panel were disappointed that the 30 year HRA Business Plan did not feature on the Forward Plan until late.

**Resolved** – that the Chairman considers the need for a special meeting before the next Cabinet meeting to consider the 30 year HRA Business Plan.

*Meeting closed at: 19:40  
Members of the Public: 0*