

**SOCIAL ISSUES SCRUTINY PANEL**

**30 January 2006**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Hammerton (Chairman) (P)

Chapman (P)  
Coates (P)  
Hutton (P)  
Love (P)  
Maynard (P)

Nunn (P)  
Quar (P)  
Rees (P)  
Saunders (P)  
Steel (P)

TACT Representatives

Mr Rickman and Mr Gilbert-Wood

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillors Collin (Portfolio Holder for Healthy and Inclusive Communities)  
Councillor Hiscock (Portfolio Holder for Housing)

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillors Beckett, Davies, Jackson, Tait and Wagner

---

754. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Panel held on 28 November 2005 be approved and adopted.

755. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

756. **HAMPSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE – PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE**

(Oral Report)

Members were reminded that Linda Green (Chair of the Winchester Community Learning Forum) who was originally scheduled to present the work of the Forum, was now to attend a future meeting.

It was noted that Deputy Chief Fire Officer, Alan House who had been invited to the meeting to explain the proposals for changes to the Fire and Rescue Service, could not attend.

757. **HEALTHY AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S REPORT – THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE MONITORING**  
(Report SO17 refers)

The Director of Communities clarified that an apparent overspend on payments to a CCTV contractor would be recovered in full from a grant payment before the next quarter. The Director also advised that a variance on the Meals on Wheels budget was due to deficit funding arrangements with the County Council. It was explained that, in future, improved partnership working would establish better clarity on such matters.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

758. **HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S REPORT – THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE MONITORING – HOUSING GENERAL FUND**  
(Report SO18 refers)

The Director of Communities reported that the total number of affordable units provided to key workers up to the end of the Third Quarter was 33. Members noted that this information was not available at the time the report was published.

The Panel referred to the new mandatory licensing scheme for Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) that was to be implemented from April 2006. Further to questions, the Director reported that the Council's operation of the Scheme, including resource implications, was currently under investigation and would be reported to Cabinet in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

759. **TACT COMMENTS ON REPORTS SO19 AND SO20**  
(Report SO21 refers)

The above item had not been notified for inclusion on the agenda within the statutory deadline. The Chairman agreed to accept the item on the agenda as a matter requiring urgent consideration, so as to inform the Panel of the views of TACT, following its meeting held 19 January 2006. The views would be taken into account when considering Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – Third Quarter Performance Monitoring (Report SO19 refers) and Housing Information Systems Informal Scrutiny Group – Update (Report SO20 Refers) as set out in Minute 753 and 754 below.

RESOLVED:

That the comments of TACT in relation to Reports SO19 and SO20 be noted.

760. **HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S REPORT - THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE MONITORING - HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA)**  
(Report SO19 refers)

Responding to comments from Mr Gilbert-Wood (TACT), both Councillor Hiscock and the Director of Communities were satisfied that the Council was progressing satisfactorily to attain the Decent Home Standard in all of the Council's stock by 2010. Furthermore, to survey a higher percentage of units than that previously undertaken by the Stock Condition Survey, would be costly and such resources would be better utilised for necessary improvements.

Mr Gilbert-Wood also referred to the lack of success regarding the incentive scheme that sought to encourage tenants to move from houses to hard-to-let sheltered accommodation. He suggested that this was probably due to the rental costs between some three bedroom homes and sheltered accommodation flats being similar. Councillor Hiscock reported that he recognised this issue and that it was due to the application of service charges, in addition to the usual rental differential between estates and more centrally located accommodation.

Following discussion of matters related to the letting of long term void properties, it was agreed that further information to address this issue should be provided to the next meeting of the Panel.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

761. **HOUSING INFORMATION SYSTEMS INFORMAL SCRUTINY GROUP - UPDATE**  
(Report SO20 Refers)

Members noted that the recommendations of the Group would be reported to the Panel in due course.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

762. **REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY INFORMAL SCRUTINY GROUP**  
(Report SO18 refers)

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet be recommended to approve:

1. That a Members' Training evening be organised to tie in with the Community Safety Conference in February in order to update Members with key community safety issues and the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

2. That the Area Community Panels be widely publicised to elected Members, as well as the public, and communication links between Members and the Panels be developed.

3. That the role of the Portfolio Holder for Healthy and Inclusive Communities on the Community Safety Partnership be publicised amongst Members.

4. That the Community Safety Officer's role as a link point for Members be publicised through Members' Briefing note.

5. That better links be made with other Community Safety Partnerships in neighbouring districts, especially with partnerships which border on to the southern part of the Winchester District.

6. That a simplified Community Safety Partnership diagram be produced with case studies illustrating how people can link into various layers in the Partnership.

7. That further thought be given by officers as to how to section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act can be promoted throughout the City Council (section 17 places a duty on the City Council to consider community safety in all of its core business), with recommendations to be brought back to the next meeting of the Social Issues Scrutiny Panel.

8. That the Social Issues Scrutiny Panel maintain an overview of the Community Safety Strategy and City Council's role in the Community Safety Partnership, with regular reviews in the work programme.

763. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**  
(Report PS216 refers)

RESOLVED:

That the Scrutiny Work Programme, as set out in Report PS216, be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.30pm

Chairman