

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

14 May 2010

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond (Community Safety and Housing Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Sally Forth, Social Behaviour and Housing Manager
Jeff Mason, Head of Support Services
Lynda Igoe, Principal Housing Advice Officer
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

32. Evaluation of the Good Tenant Scheme *(Social Behaviour and Housing Manager)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To report on the findings from the evaluation of the Good Tenant Scheme.

Issues for Consideration

The report outlined the background to the Good Tenant Scheme and explained how it operates. After 18 months of the scheme operating an evaluation had been carried out. The key findings were:-

- 76% of users responding to the questionnaire found the GTS simple and easy to use.
- 25% of users are more aware of the importance of their behaviour in maintaining a good tenancy history as a result of the GTS.
- 31% of landlords using the scheme have declined prospective tenants due to information gained through the scheme whilst 30% have granted a tenancy they would not otherwise have done.
- There is a high level of confidence amongst scheme applicants and landlords that the scheme is delivering on its

key aim of reducing anti-social behaviour in the private rented sector.

- There has been no impact on homelessness.

The full evaluation responses were attached as an appendix. The report contained proposals to streamline the process. The Portfolio Holder suggested that the report be forwarded to the Housing Partnership for their information.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder:-

- Noted the proposals from the evaluation report outlined at paragraph 5 of the report
- Agreed that these proposals be considered as part of the Housing Service Delivery Option review to be undertaken in 2010/11.

33. Employees in Tied Accommodation and the Common Allocation Policy *(Principal Housing Advice Officer)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To obtain Portfolio Holder ratification of the local amendments (Hartlepool only) to the Tees Valley Common Allocation Policy in respect of employees in tied accommodation who commenced their employment prior to 1 September 2010.

Issues for Consideration

The report provided details of the current provisions contained within the Tees Valley Common Allocation Policy in respect of employees residing in tied accommodation and the amendments to be implemented locally for those employees who commenced their employment prior to 1 September 2010. These amendments had been identified following the Tied Accommodation Review by Human Resources and form part of the Single Status Agreement.

An Appendix to the report outlined the 18 buildings and employees affected by the amendments.

This item contains exempt information under Schedule 12A of

the Local Government Act 1872 namely information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Authority (paragraph 4)

Consultation had taken place between the Authority, Human Resources, Housing Hartlepool, Employees and Trades Unions and it had been agreed that these amendments would also apply should the employees give notice in order to enhance their careers. Concern had been expressed though because the current sub regional policy would mean that the employees would only receive priority banding on premises which were suitable for their marital/family status. The Portfolio Holder suggested that a concession could be that if employees wanted a larger property then their priority band status could be lowered. The Principal Housing Advice Officer agreed to take this proposal to the Tees Valley Group.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder ratified the following local (Hartlepool only) amendments to the Tees Valley Common Allocations Policy in respect of employees residing in tied accommodation and who commenced their employment prior to 1 September 2010:

- Band 1 priority status would be awarded to all affected employees when they receive formal notice that their employment and or their tied accommodation is terminating.
- Extended notice periods can be negotiated for these employees by mutual agreement with the employer and the band priority status would be activated on receipt of formal notification of the agreed date.

34. Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2009/10 – Quarter 4 Monitoring Report *(Head of Support Services)*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To inform the Portfolio Holder of the progress made against the Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan 2009/10 to the end of the fourth quarter of the year.

Issues for Consideration

The progress against the actions and contained in the Regeneration and Planning Services Departmental Plan and detailed 2 Actions were unable to be completed as planned which would be included in the 2010/11 Service Plans. A separate report would be brought to the Portfolio Holder in relation to Performance Indicators.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder noted the progress of key actions along with the latest position with regard to risks.

The meeting concluded at 10.13 am.

PETER DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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