

MINUTES

Community Services Scrutiny Panel

2nd September, 2008

Present: Councillors Howarth (in the Chair), Cowper, Crooks, Lightley, McDonnell, Mavin, Norman, Robinson, Walton and Young.

Also Present: Councillors Kinghorn and Wilkes.

1. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D. Smith.

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th July, 2008, were confirmed as a correct record.

3. Allocations Policy – Consideration of Draft Report

The Draft Report on the Allocations Policy had been circulated to Members.

It was considered appropriate to add a recommendation requesting the drawing up of a suitable form for use where applicants wished to appeal the decision to allocate them to a particular band. It was agreed that such a form should only be provided to applicants on request, and in all other cases, requests to appeal would continue to be made in writing.

Subject to the addition of this recommendation, it was agreed that the report be forwarded to the Scrutiny Committee for their consideration.

4. Graveyards – Review

The Panel had previously scrutinised closed graveyards and churchyards, the report being approved and adopted by Cabinet in November, 2007.

In view of local government reorganisation it was considered necessary for this topic to be reviewed. A briefing note had been provided by the Technical Support Manager (Environment & Leisure Services) detailing the work of the Streetscene Workstream. The Workstream had not yet considered the issue of churchyard management in any great detail, however it was a statutory duty for local authorities to take on certain responsibilities for churchyards once they had been closed.

The unitary authority would take on these responsibilities from 1st April, 2009, and it was therefore agreed that the Panel's previous report on closed churchyards and graveyards should be forwarded to the new authority, and that they be asked to particularly note the work carried out by the Neighbourhood Wardens and Environmental Services and to continue to carry out this work to the current high standards.

A draft report would be brought to the next meeting for Members' consideration.

5. Any Other Business

The Chairman advised that the scrutiny of the Playing Pitch Strategy would be the topic of the Meeting to be held on 30th September, 2008.

The Meeting terminated at 6.05 pm