

PART A

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting: 26 September 2013
Report of: Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer
Title: Watford Community Housing Trust

1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 This report asks Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the conclusions and recommendations set out in the final draft report from the Watford Community Housing Trust Task Group, attached as an Appendix to this report, prior to its presentation to the Housing Trust and other parties as suggested by the Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviews the Watford Community Housing Trust Task Group's conclusions and recommendations.

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3.0 DETAILED PROPOSAL

3.1 The task group had been proposed by Councillor Asif Khan as between 40% and 50% of his casework related to the Housing Trust.

3.2 At Overview and Scrutiny Committee's meeting on 26 March 2013 it was agreed that a Task Group would be established to review Watford Community Housing Trust as suggested by Councillor Khan. Its main focus would be on the Trust's communication with all stakeholders and the quality of the repairs service.

3.3 The Task Group held its first meeting on 16 April 2013, when it was agreed that a survey would be produced for residents seeking their views on the Housing Trust and a meeting arranged to meet residents and speak to them about their experiences. The Task Group also agreed it needed to speak to the Housing Trust.

- 3.4 The Task Group arranged an open meeting for residents at the Town Hall and posters were forwarded to various groups and premises around the Borough. The Trust also agreed to promote the meeting and place posters where residents would be see them. Each person attending the meeting was provided with the questionnaire which was completed during his or her discussion with a Councillor. The Task Group was pleased that Councillors Brandon and McLeod also attended the meeting and heard residents' comments.
- 3.5 Watford Community Housing Trust was provided with information about the areas the Task Group wished to cover when they attended the meeting at the Town Hall. Three representatives from the Housing Trust, including the Chief Executive Tina Barnard, attended the Task Group's meeting.
- 3.6 Full details of the recommendations and the Task Group's meetings are contained in the final draft of the report attached as an Appendix to this report.
- 3.7 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the Task Group's conclusions and recommendations prior to it being presented to Watford Community Housing Trust, the Portfolio Holder, Head of Community and Customer Services and other parties as suggested by Members.

Appendices

Appendix – Final draft of the report of the Watford Community Housing Trust Task Group

Background Papers

Report and minutes of Overview and Scrutiny Committee 21 November 2012 and 26 March 2013

File Reference

None