

HOUSING SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

- ITEMS TO CONSIDER IN DECIDING
WORK PROGRAMME 2003/04

ROLE OF SCRUTINY

- COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
- SCRUTINY OF EXECUTIVE
DECISION MAKING AND
PERFORMANCE
- POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Terms of Reference

Housing and in particular (but not limited to):

- (a) Management of the Council's housing stock;**
- (b) Development of partnerships with external organisations to meet housing need and regenerate unsatisfactory housing;**
- (c) Improvement of private sector housing;**
- (d) Relationships with the Housing Corporation and Registered Social Landlords in the Borough;**
- (e) Relationships with stakeholder groups in the borough;**
- (f) Grants and loans to owner occupiers, tenants landlords, and/or developers;**
- (g) Homelessness and re-housing;**
- (h) Special needs housing.**

WHAT INFORMS SCRUTINY?

- Local Concerns
- National Concerns
- Performance
- Strategic and Organisational Priorities
- Consultation
- Forward Plan
- Recommendations of Audit, Inspection and Best Value Reviews

Good practice

- Quality of scrutiny not quantity
- Does the review add value ?
- Does the review help to ensure effective political management ?
- Does the review help to ensure effective community leadership ?
- Tracking the outcomes of Reviews

Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee – Previous Reviews 2002/03

- **Key Worker Housing [Oct '02]**
- **Leaseholder Bills – Service Charge Repayment Options for Major Works [Oct '02]**
- **Executive Member interview [Dec '02]**
- **Quarterly Performance Data – 2003/04 Annual Targets**
- **Unitary Development Plan – recommendations in respect of Housing Density / Key Worker Housing / sustainability**

Items put forward by Overview & Scrutiny Committee [9/6/03]

- Housing Strategy;
- Tenant Management Budget Scrutiny;
- Housing Governance;
- Tenants Halls;
- Issue of co-option to the Sub-Committee

Other possible items

- **BVR Tenant Involvement;**
- **BVR Tenant Fund;**
- **HRA Business Plan;**
- **Leasehold Property “buy-back” policy;**
- **Review of Tenancy Agreement;**
- **Allocation Review;**
- **Leasehold Charges;**
- **“Supporting People” – Supported Housing Costs**

Approaches to Scrutiny

- One-off sessions/interviews;
- Longer in-depth inquiries;
- Mystery Shopping exercises;
- Pre-decision scrutiny – inputting into ongoing reviews;
- Visits to external organisations – external challenge / view best practice

Co-optees

Role in Scrutiny

- Broadening debate
- Providing means of community input
- Providing expert advice

Previous Co-options

- Ratification Committee included 1 Leaseholder Council & 6 Tenants' Council

OSC Recommendation

- Invite Tenants Council to nominate 3 expert adviser and Leaseholder Council to nominate 1 expert adviser