

## TENANT SCRUTINY BOARD

# Meeting to be held in Civic Hall, Leeds, LS1 1UR on Wednesday, 1st June, 2016 at 1.30 pm

(A pre-meeting will take place for ALL Members of the Board at 1.00 p.m.)

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Sallie Bannatyne

Olga Gailite

John Gittos (Chair)

**Christine Gregory** 

Michael Healey

Maddy Hunter

Peter Middleton

Roderic Morgan

Jackie Worthington

Please note: Certain or all items on this agenda may be recorded

Agenda compiled by: Lee Ward

Neighbourhood Services

Tel: 0113 37 83195

Housing Manager (Tenant Scrutiny and Customer Relations): Sharon Guy Tel: 0113 37 83194

## AGENDA

| ltem<br>No | Ward/Equal<br>Opportunities | Item Not<br>Open |   | Page<br>No |
|------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---|------------|
| 1          |                             |                  | EXEMPT INFORMATION - POSSIBLE EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC   |            |
|            |                             |                  | To highlight reports or appendices which officers have identified as containing exempt information, and where officers consider that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons outlined in the report.  |            |
|            |                             |                  | 2 To consider whether or not to accept the officers recommendation in respect of the above information.   |            |
|            |                             |                  | 3 If so, to formally pass the following resolution:-  |            |
|            |                             |                  | <b>RESOLVED –</b> That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as containing exempt information on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information, as follows: |            |
|            |                             |                  | No exempt items have been identified.   |            |
| 2          |                             |                  | LATE ITEMS  |            |
|            |                             |                  | To identify items which have been admitted to the agenda by the Chair for consideration.  |            |
|            |                             |                  | (The special circumstances shall be specified in the minutes.)  |            |
| 3          |                             |                  | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE   |            |
|            |                             |                  | To receive any apologies for absence.   |            |

| Item<br>No | Ward/Equal<br>Opportunities | Item Not<br>Open |  | Page<br>No |
|------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--|------------|
| 4          |                             |                  | MINUTES - 6TH APRIL 2016   | 1 - 4      |
|            |                             |                  | To confirm as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting held on 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2016  |            |
| 5          |                             |                  | CHAIR'S UPDATE   | 5 - 6      |
|            |                             |                  | To receive an update from the Chair on scrutiny activity, not specifically included on this agenda, since the previous Board meeting.  |            |
| 6          |                             |                  | DISCUSSION WITH DIRECTOR OF<br>ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING AND<br>POTENTIAL FUTURE AREAS OF WORK   | 7 - 8      |
|            |                             |                  | To receive a report from Housing Manager, Tenant Scrutiny. Director of Environment and Housing to introduce himself to Tenant Scrutiny Board, to give an overview of his portfolio and explore future areas of Tenant Scrutiny Board work. |            |
| 7          |                             |                  | LETTINGS POLICY REVIEW   | 9 - 10     |
|            |                             |                  | To receive a report from Housing Manager, Tenant Scrutiny, presenting an overview on the Lettings Policy Review.   |            |
| 8          |                             |                  | JOINT RESPONSE TO TENANT SCRUTINY<br>BOARD INQUIRY - ENVIRONMENT OF<br>ESTATES   | 11 -<br>20 |
|            |                             |                  | To receive a report from Head of Housing Management (East) on Tenant Scrutiny Board's inquiry on Environment of Estates.   |            |
| 9          |                             |                  | ENVIRONMENT OF ESTATES INQUIRY -<br>RESPONSE FROM DIRECTOR OF<br>ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING   | 21 -<br>22 |
|            |                             |                  | To receive a report from Housing Manager, Tenant Scrutiny, presenting a formal response from the Director of Environment and Housing on the Boards inquiry on Environment of Estates.  |            |

| Item<br>No | Ward/Equal<br>Opportunities | Item Not<br>Open |   | Page<br>No |
|------------|-----------------------------|------------------|---|------------|
| 10         |                             |                  | DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING   |            |
|            |                             |                  | 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2016. 1:30pm (Pre meeting for all Board members at 1pm)   |            |
|            |                             |                  | THIRD PARTY RECORDING   |            |
|            |                             |                  | Recording of this meeting is allowed to enable those not present to see or hear the proceedings either as they take place (or later) and to enable the reporting of those proceedings. A copy of the recording protocol is available from the contacts named on the front of this agenda.   |            |
|            |                             |                  | Use of Recordings by Third Parties– code of practice  |            |
|            |                             |                  | a) Any published recording should be accompanied by a statement of when and where the recording was made, the context of the discussion that took place, and a clear identification of the main speakers and their role or title.   |            |
|            |                             |                  | b) Those making recordings must not edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the proceedings or comments made by attendees. In particular there should be no internal editing of published extracts; recordings may start at any point and end at any point but the material between those points must be complete. |            |
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#### TENANT SCRUTINY BOARD

### **WEDNESDAY, 6TH APRIL, 2016**

**PRESENT:** John Gittos in the Chair

Sallie Bannatyne, Olga Gailite, Christine Gregory, Michael Healey, Maddy Hunter, Peter Middleton and Roderic Morgan

## 59 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no exempt items.

#### 60 Late Items

There were no late items.

## 61 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was submitted by Jackie Worthington.

## 62 Minutes - 3 February 2016

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2016 be approved as a correct record.

### 63 Inquiry - Environment of Estates - Draft Scrutiny Report

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report presenting the Board's draft Inquiry report following its Inquiry into environment of estates.

Prior to discussion on the Board's Inquiry report the Chair invited Judith Wray, Housing Manager, to outline to the Board the work she was currently leading on with regards the harmonisation of estate walkabouts.

In summary the key areas of discussion were:

- The implementation of the Board's recommendations from the Inquiry report as they relate to walkabouts.
- Revisions to various procedures for Housing Officers undertaking walkabouts.
- Improved publicity of walkabouts.
- Revised and improved escalation procedures.
- That the new arrangements would come into place late April 2016.

Following this discussion, the Board unanimously agreed their Inquiry report on Environment of Estates. This would now be sent to Housing Leeds for a co-ordinated response prior to it being presented by the Chair to the Housing Advisory Board.

Closing the discussion, the Chair thanked Board Members for their hard work in producing this Inquiry report

**RESOLVED** – To agree the Board's Inquiry report on Environment of estates and to submit to Housing Leeds for formal response.

#### 64 Mobile Working for Housing Management Officers

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report providing an update on mobile working for Housing Management Officers. This followed recommendations made by this Board during its Inquiry into Home Visits.

Lee Ward, Neighbourhood Services Officer, provided a verbal summary of the report and answered Board member questions.

In summary the main areas of discussion were:

- The decision, for technical reasons, to move away from tablet based devices to laptops.
- The use of MiFi units to provide a reliable signal.
- That the centralised income team dealing with universal credit will be using them.

#### **RESOLVED -**

- (a) To note the contents of the report and progress made to roll out mobile working across Housing Management.
- (b) To note the move from tablet based devices to small laptops.

## 65 Administrative Support Arrangements for Tenant Scrutiny Board

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report detailing the revised arrangements for administrative support for Tenant Scrutiny Board commencing May 2016.

The Board noted that support will be provided by the Tenant & Community Involvement Section within Housing Leeds.

Noting the new arrangements the Board reiterated the need for Tenant Scrutiny Board to maintain its independence and its ability to fulfil its terms of reference. The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development and the Housing Manager, Customer Relations, Tenant Scrutiny, Tenant Involvement, Equality & Diversity gave assurance that the Board would retain its independence.

#### RESOLVED -

- (a) To note the changes in offer support provided by Leeds City Council to Tenant Scrutiny Board.
- (b) To review in six months whether the new support arrangements are providing the appropriate support and independence expected.

## 66 Chair's Update

The Head of Scrutiny and Member Development submitted a report which provided the Chair of Tenant Scrutiny Board with an opportunity to update Board Members on some of the areas of work and activity since March.

The Chair advised that he had held meetings with officers from Housing Leeds in relation to the Board's final Inquiry report and estate walkabouts. He also advised that he had attended Scrutiny Board (Environment & Housing) on 22 March 2016, at which PCSOs, right to buy, empty homes, private rental sector, lettings and temporary accommodation were discussed. The Chair also reported that he provided an update on the Board's Inquiry into Environment of Estates.

Closing the meeting the Chair was joined by Board members and the former Chair, Steve liee in thanking the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development for his work in relation to Tenant Scrutiny Board.

#### **RESOLVED -**

- (a) That the update be received and noted.
- (b) That the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development be thanked for his work in relation to Tenant Scrutiny Board.

#### 67 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 1 June 2016 at 1.30pm (pre-meeting for all Board members at 1.00pm)

(The meeting concluded at 2.25pm)





Report author: Sharon Guy

Tel: 07891 273581

## **Report of Housing Manager, Tenant Scrutiny**

## **Report to Tenant Scrutiny Board**

**Date: 1 June 2016** 

Subject: Chair's Update Report

| Are specific electoral Wards affected?   | Yes   | ⊠ No |
|--|-------|------|
| If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):   |       |      |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?  | ☐ Yes | ⊠ No |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-In?  | ☐ Yes | ⊠ No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: | ☐ Yes | ⊠ No |
| Appendix number:   |       |      |

## 1 Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline some of the areas of work and activity of the Chair of the Scrutiny Board.

#### 2 Main issues

- 2.1 Invariably, scrutiny activity often takes place outside of the formal monthly Tenant Scrutiny Board meetings. Such activity can take the form of specific activity and actions of the Chair of the Tenant Scrutiny Board.
- 2.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity to formally update the Tenant Scrutiny Board on activity since the last meeting, including any specific outcomes. It also provides an opportunity for members of the Tenant Scrutiny Board to identify and agree any further scrutiny activity that may be necessary.
- 2.3 The Chair and Scrutiny Officer will provide a verbal update at the meeting, as required.

#### 3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to:
  - a) Note the content of this report and the verbal update provided at the meeting.
  - b) Identify any specific matters that may require further scrutiny input/activity.

| 4.  | Background papers <sup>1</sup> |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 4.1 | None used                      |

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.



Report author: Sharon Guy

Tel: 07891 273581

## **Report of Housing Manager, Tenant Scrutiny**

**Report to Tenant Scrutiny Board** 

Date: 1st June 2016

Subject: Discussion with Director of Environment and Housing, Mr Neil Evans,

incorporating future work programme for Tenant Scrutiny Board

| Are specific electoral Wards affected?  If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):   | ☐ Yes | ⊠ No |
|--|-------|------|
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?  | ☐ Yes | ⊠ No |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-In?  | ☐ Yes | ⊠ No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:  Appendix number: | ☐ Yes | ⊠ No |

#### 1.0 **Summary of main issues**

1.1 At its meeting in February the Board agreed to invite the Director of Environment and Housing, Mr Neil Evans, to attend today's meeting. Mr Evans' portfolio includes Housing Leeds, Community Safety, Environmental Action, Waste Management and Parks and Countryside.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Board is requested to discuss with the Director of Environment and Housing, the work and ambitions of the Tenant Scrutiny Board including possible future areas for Scrutiny.

## 3.0 Background documents<sup>1</sup>

3.1 None

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.





Report author: Sharon Guy

Tel: 07891 273581

## Report of the Housing Manager, Tenant Scrutiny

## **Report to Tenant Scrutiny Board**

Date: 1st June 2016

**Subject: Lettings Policy Review** 

| Are specific electoral Wards affected?  If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):   | ☐ Yes | ⊠ No |
|--|-------|------|
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?  | ☐ Yes | ⊠ No |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-In?  | ☐ Yes | ⊠ No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:  Appendix number: | ☐ Yes | ⊠ No |

## 1.0 Summary of main issues

- 1.1 At the Board's meeting in February, following discussion with Councillor Coupar, Executive Board Member with responsibility for communities, it was agreed that Tenant Scrutiny Board would be consulted during the Lettings Policy Review process.
- 1.2 As a pre-cursor to a more detailed presentation of the Lettings Policy Review at the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June. A general overview has been requested from Housing Leeds Senior Manager(s).

#### 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Board is requested to receive Housing Leeds' overview and discuss with officers matters relating to the Lettings Policy Review.

## 3.0 Background documents<sup>1</sup>

3.1 None.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.





Report author: David Longthorpe

0113 3367577

| Report of  | Housing Leeds – Head of Housing Management (East)       |                 |         |
|--|---|-----------------|---------|
| Report to  | Tenant Scrutiny Board                                   |                 |         |
| Date:  | 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2016                               |                 |         |
| Subject:   | Joint Response to Tenant Scrutiny Board Inqu<br>Estates | iiry – Environn | nent of |
|  | electoral Wards affected?<br>ame(s) of Ward(s):         | ☐ Yes           | x No    |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and   |   |                 | x No    |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-In?  |   |                 | x No    |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:  Appendix number: |   |                 | x No    |

## Summary of main issues

The purpose of this report is for Housing Leeds to provide a joint response, on behalf of Waste, Environmental Action and Parks and Countryside to Tenant Scrutiny Board, following its inquiry and subsequent recommendations made about environment of estates.

#### Recommendations

- 1. Housing Leeds and other involved partners would like to thank the Tenant Scrutiny Board for the work and commitment undertaken on the environment of estates inquiry, and acknowledges the positive contribution to service improvement and delivering improved outcomes for tenants.
- 2. Tenant Scrutiny Board is asked to consider feedback from Housing Leeds and partners in response to recommendations received regarding the environment of estates inquiry, as detailed in Appendix 1.

#### 1.0 Purpose of this report

1.1 The purpose of the report is for Housing Leeds and partners to provide a formal response to Tenant Scrutiny Board in respect of the environment of estates inquiry.

#### 2.0 Background information

- 2.1 Tenant Scrutiny Board selected this topic as there was a strong belief that good housing and the welfare of tenants was not just about decent buildings but the 'whole environment' in which tenants live.
- 2.2 The purpose of the inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
  - Current policies
  - Tenant involvement
  - Co-ordination of Council services and other agencies
  - Developing and delivering standards
  - Performance measuring
  - Customer satisfaction (STAR survey)
- 2.3 Tenant Scrutiny Board selected environment of estates as an area for investigation because:
  - It was thought performance in this area would benefit from improvement
  - It was felt that environment of estates is fundamental to tenants' experience of the Housing Management service and;
  - It was felt it would address issues arising from the 2014 STAR survey
- 2.4 Information presented to Tenant Scrutiny Board during the course of their investigation in relation to the 2014 STAR survey, highlights the rising importance of neighbourhoods and the environment as an issue for tenants.

The top 5 tenant citywide priorities taken from the STAR survey are:

- Car parking
- Dog fouling
- Rubbish or litter
- Overgrown trees/shrubs/grass
- Drug use or dealing
- 2.5 Tenant Scrutiny Board have examined a wide range of information and evidence including:
  - Joint estate inspections to obtain first-hand experience in Armley, Bramley, City & Holbeck and Moortown
  - A survey of all Elected Members
  - A meeting with Councillors from Armley, Bramley, City and Holbeck and Moortown.
  - A survey of tenants and resident associations

- A meeting with senior managers from Housing, Waste, Parks and Countryside and Environmental Action
- Consultation with Housing Officers, Team Leaders and Housing Managers
- A meeting with Cllr Coupar, Executive Member for Environment & Housing
- 2.6 It is felt this approach adds validity to the inquiry as the findings and resulting recommendations are evidence based and include extensive consultation with stakeholders.
- 2.7 The level of commitment and scale of work undertaken by Tenant Scrutiny during this inquiry has been considerable.

#### 3.0 Main issues

- 3.1 Tenant Scrutiny Board have summarised the quality of environment of estates is determined by the consistency with which the various departments of Leeds City Council are able to:
  - Adopt a 'one Council' approach and work in partnership
  - Involve tenants and other stakeholders in managing estate standards
  - Have a routine inspection programme
  - Provide joint estate improvement plans
  - Harmonisation of processes
  - Set agreed timescales for referrals
  - Act on items identified and monitor through to completion
  - Ensure information collected is correct and used to improve service outcomes for customers
- 3.2 The Tenant Scrutiny Board concluded that; improving environment of estates would lead to improved tenant satisfaction and would deliver an improved service for tenants if their recommendations are implemented. The recommendations from Tenant Scrutiny Board which includes feedback form Housing Leeds, Waste, Parks and Countryside and Environmental Action can be found in Appendix 1.
  - The approved recommendations will be implemented on 1st June 2016.
- 3.3.1 On receipt of the Tenant Scrutiny Board report, Housing Leeds has reviewed its estate inspection policy and procedures and has incorporated all of the findings in relation to recommendation 2, into the new process. This updated process was implemented on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016 and will be shared with Team Leaders at a city wide meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

## 4.0 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1 The Tenant Scrutiny Board is made up of tenants only. They have led on and directed the purpose of this inquiry; from deciding what the inquiry should be about, who to speak with and what information to request and review. As part of the inquiry there was wider consultation with tenants through a survey.
- 4.2 An update on progress will be reported to Tenant Scrutiny Board in 6 months' time from Housing Leeds and partners.

## 5.0 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 5.1 The nature of a Tenant Scrutiny Board inquiry is for tenants themselves to identify how services can be improved by taking time to investigate a particular service area and then make recommendations for improvement.
- 5.2 An Equality Impact Assessment of the estate inspection process has been undertaken in conjunction with tenants.
- 5.3 The following recommendations are examples of where the service is likely to advance equality of opportunity:
  - By providing well managed estates this will enable Leeds City Council to provide improved environmental conditions, which will lead to improved tenant satisfaction.
  - To provide effective sign posting to all of our services and the services of other agencies and partners and to promote tenant involvement.

## 6.0 Council Policies and City Priorities

6.1 Improving environmental standards supports the Best Council objective to 'ensure high quality public services, improving quality, efficiency and involving people in shaping their city.'

## 7.0 Resources and Value for Money

7.1 Value for money is one of the key drivers for Tenant Scrutiny Board. The recommendations made, support the principle of; improved efficient and effective ways of working by removing duplication and providing efficient services.

#### 8.0 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

8.1 As a landlord Housing Leeds are required to promote and support Tenant Scrutiny Board in line with the Homes and Communities Agency's Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Standard. This is known as co-regulation and is how landlords are now regulated. Failure to comply with this standard could result in intervention from the regulator and put at risk the reputation of the service.

#### 9.0 Risk Management

- 9.1 By delivering a coordinated approach in the management of environmental standards this will create neighbourhoods where tenants want to live and improve tenant satisfaction. In addition, it will address tenant feedback from the 2014 STAR survey.
- 9.2 Additionally, it enables Housing Leeds and partners to manage risks associated with potential compensation claims arising from slips, trips and falls. The revised estate inspection process includes an annual inspection of footpaths, ginnels, walkways and paved areas.

9.3

#### 10.0 Conclusions

- 10.1 Housing Leeds and partners wish to acknowledge the work of Tenant Scrutiny Board and their positive contribution to service improvement and delivering better outcomes for tenants.
- 10.2 Tenant Scrutiny Board is asked to review and accept feedback on recommendations made by Housing, Waste, Parks and Countryside and Environmental Action teams.

## 11.0 Background documents<sup>1</sup>

None

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.



## ESTATE INSPECTION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM TENANT SCRUTINY BOARD WITH FEEDBACK

## **Desired Outcome** – Assurances that the 'One Council' approach is operating at estate level

**Recommendation 1** – That the Tenant Scrutiny Board review in September 2016 progress made towards service harmonisation and implementation of the 'one Council approach'

Comment Recommendation accepted

We welcome a further review in September 2016

## **Desired Outcome** – An improved walkabout process

**Recommendation 2** – That the following be considered as part of the current harmonisation project and the results of the harmonisation project be reported back to Tenant Scrutiny Board

- Better communication of the estate walkabout with greater lead in time
- Proactive campaign to increase tenant participation both at walkabouts and in other associations
- That for some walkabouts specific agencies attend at the request of housing Leeds to target particular issues
- All ward councillors and those attend at the request of Housing Leeds to target particular issues
- All ward councillors and those attending receive outcome reports following walkabouts
- All actions agreed happen within agreed timescales
- Uniform reporting template
- Use of compliment letters
- Consistent approach to enforcement

## Comment - Recommendation Accepted

We believe that in the majority of situations the Housing Officer can take ownership of any issues identified during the Walkabout on behalf of other council services and that stronger relationships can be built between services that result in improvements. This means in the majority of cases having additional council officers from other services would not be necessary which makes the best use of officer time.

We also wish to consider alternative ways of identifying issues on estates that result in the same outcomes

## **Desired Outcome** – Cleaner estates

**Recommendation 3** – That the Council introduces the best waste collection solution for individual estates, even if that results in variations across the city

#### **Comment - Recommendation Accepted**

However it should be noted that the council is committed to expanding Alternate Week Collection where possible but there are some locations where an alternative to the standard fortnightly wheelie bin service is provided that best meets the needs of that locality.

## Desired Outcome - Cleaner estates and better educated residents on the issue of waste

#### Recommendation 4 – That the Council

- Provides more bins on estates
- Ensures the timely removal of full glass banks
- Introduces more clean up days
- Undertakes an education campaign to raise variations across the city

#### **Comment - Recommendations Accepted**

We would like to see residents control and plan clean up days with services providing a support role.

An education campaign needs to use various communication methods but it not only needs to inform but also challenge behaviours.

## **Desired Outcome** – Improved appearance of gardens

**Recommendation 5** – That appropriate enforcement action is taken to ensure tenants fulfil their tenancy agreement with regards to the upkeep of gardens

#### **Comment** – Recommendation Accepted

We also provide appropriate support for tenants who need help in maintaining their gardens due to disability.

## **Desired Outcome** – Improved knowledge of tenants as to their responsibilities

**Recommendation 6** – That the responsibilities of tenants with regards their gardens are clearly communicated, particularly during pre-tenancy training

**Comment** Recommendation Accepted.

## **Desired Outcome** – Providing tenants with the tools to keep their gardens neat and tidy

**Recommendation 7** – That Housing Leeds encourages and facilitates the start-up of tool bank schemes

#### **Comment** Recommendation Accepted.

While Housing Leeds does not want to directly manage such Tool Loan Schemes we will actively encourage the development of local Tool Banks where there is an interest by local residents to provide this service.

## **Desired Outcome** – A better understanding by tenants of what is achievable and within what timescales

**Recommendation 8** – That greater publicity be given to the constraints faced by the Council in terms of grounds maintenance

**Comment** Recommendation Accepted.

## **Desired Outcome** – Up to date map

Recommendation 9 - That Parks and Countryside in liaison with Housing Leeds pro-

actively identify those areas 'not on the map' and action accordingly

**Comment - Recommendation Accepted.** 

Although not all neglected land is publicly owned and alternative solutions will be needed in these cases.

## **Desired Outcome** – Improved garage policy

**Recommendation 10** – That Housing Leeds reports back to Tenant Scrutiny Board back on any recommendations and or proposed policy changes following its review of garages

**Comment - Recommendation Accepted.** 

Current review of the sustainability of garages and garages sites is ongoing and an update will be provided to Tenant Scrutiny Board once completed.

## **Desired Outcome** – The development of tenant associations which can help deliver estate initiatives

**Recommendation 11** – That Housing Leeds pro-actively encourages and supports the development of tenant associations in those areas where such activity is low.

**Comment - Recommendation Accepted.** 





Report author: Sharon Guy

Tel: 07891 273581

## Report of the Housing Manager, Tenant Scrutiny

## **Report to Tenant Scrutiny Board**

Date: 1st June 2016

Subject: Environment of Estates Inquiry – Response from Director of Environment & Housing.

|       | $\square$ |
|-------|-----------|
| Yes   | No        |
|       |           |
|       |           |
| Yes   | No        |
| ☐ Yes | ⊠ No      |
| ☐ Yes | ⊠ No      |
|       | Yes Yes   |

## 1.0 Summary of main issues

1.1 Following the formal response from Housing Leeds to the Inquiry into Environment of Estates report, the Director of Environment and Housing has been invited to offer his personal perspective on the recommendations.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Board is requested to receive the Director of Environment and Housing's observations, discuss and agree next steps.

## 3.0 Background documents<sup>1</sup>

3.1 None.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

