

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Community and Housing Steering Group

20 December 2006

Minutes

Present: Dennis Hopper, Director of Residential & Commercial Services, Ceri Nursaw, Head of City & Regional Office, Mike Leonard, Property Manager, Greg Miller, Deputy Head of City & Regional Office, Amanda Jackson, Community Policy Officer

Apologies: Aidan Grills, Membership Services Manager, Students Union.

1. Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were agreed by members. Membership will be restricted for ordinary meetings. An additional Community and Housing Forum will be held per annum, to be attended more widely by the University's external stakeholders. Additional information regarding these meetings are to be added to the Terms of Reference. Attendees to the forum are to be agreed. **ACTION: AJ and ML**

Key issues will be raised with Martin Holmes through Marketing Management Team meetings and with Steve Scott through Dennis's catch ups. Copies of the minutes will be circulated to key personnel when matters of interest arise.

Dates of future meeting are yet to be arranged and will be aligned with SHAP meetings where possible.

Existence of the group and its purpose should be raised formally with key externals, to enable them to raise points to be discussed at future meetings. Initially these will include the Shared Housing Group, Private Rented Sector Strategy Group, Councillors Hamilton and Monaghan, Richard Tyler, Hue Jones, Rachael Unsworth, Chair of the NW District Partnership and Martin Blakey. **ACTION: AJ**

2. Community & Housing Strategy

The review of the Housing strategy is underway and should be ready by the end of January. It was agreed that the Community Strategy should be completed along the same timeframe, enabling them to be launched together.

The Housing Strategy will be purely web based and will link to the Community Strategy, when it has been completed.

There is now pressure on the University, following a UUK talk about contributing to balanced communities and Loughborough's support of this. Our position on the private rented sector is crucial in the publication of the housing strategy review.

Both draft strategies are to be ready for circulation at the last VCEG in January (30th January) and circulated the previous week to Martin Holmes and Steve Scott.

ACTION: AJ and ML

3. Health & Wellbeing of Students in Leeds

Sarah Erskine from the PCT has requested a contribution to the Health and Wellbeing of Students Strategy which she is currently developing. Details requested include accommodation, community engagement, crime and safety and volunteering.

A number of staff have been contacted including Steve Scott and the Director of Health, Safety and Wellbeing. DH and ML have requested a copy of the draft strategy.

CN suggested the document should be more expansive and cover the whole breadth of our activity, starting more positively with details on the University's commitment to community engagement. The document should begin by mentioning the Community and Housing strategies and volunteering before leading into students discipline and more negative aspects. Mike Leonard to contribute the paragraph about the Housing Strategy. **ACTION ML**

Suggested additions amendments include:

- Student representation in the community e.g representation from the Students Union at the District Partnership meetings.
- Sport and Physical activity provision at the University should also be included. Amanda to contact Stewart Ross to see what input Sport Leeds has had.
- Emphasis is needed to highlight that community engagement and volunteering is developed in partnership with the community in response to an identified need. Two case studies should be included which have been agreed by the district partnership & council.

It was suggested that this document could be used as an executive summary within the Community Strategy. **ACTION: AJ**

4. Communications

No statement regarding the sale of Tetley Hall can be made externally until it is confirmed. The group will produce a statement on the sale to be made available to any interested parties.

A section on disposals will be included in the Housing Strategy including past and upcoming sales and the reasons behind these. This is a sensitive issue as there is no restricted covenant and it is Estates policy to generally go with the highest unconditional bid. The University is also obliged to take the offer providing best value (HEFCE).

There have been instances of other institutions selling with restricted covenant but these have been limited. Sheffield University has sold property under restricted covenant, but this has only been one set of properties. DH suggested that it is the role of the LCC planning department to restrict use.

The group considered the options available to raise awareness of our activity. There are many external publications already in circulation but it was agreed that the group focus on producing our own external communications. The Community e-zine was discussed as a vehicle for the group's communication. The various editors of the different community newsletters will be added to the distribution list so they are able to utilise the information as they choose. The e-zine will be compiled by media services and link to supporting information on the University's website.

Production of the first newsletter should coincide with the launch of the Community and Housing strategies. AJ will co-ordinate the production of the first e-newsletter

with Media services ahead of the next meeting. The Community and Housing webpages will have to be updated alongside. **ACTION:AJ**

5. All Party Parliamentary University Group, Student Housing

Opinion was that the presentation by the Loughborough University's Vice Chancellor to the All Party Parliamentary University Group did not offer any new insights into community or housing issues.

DH suggested that this document was circulated due to the Use Class Order issue. The University will need to agree a standpoint on this issue and include a statement within the Housing Strategy review.

6. AOB

Adrian Slater has raised a number of legal issues which may have implications with the operation of the Neighbourhood Helpline. GM and AJ are meeting with Steve Scott, Andrew Brooks and Adrian Slater, in January, to discuss the broader implications on student discipline with regard to students living in non-University accommodation.

Next meeting

Items for the next agenda include:

- Communications plan
- Change of Use order
- Community issues
- Community Strategy
- Housing Strategy
- Wider agenda for the Community and Housing Forum
- City Centre Strategy
- Hugh Jones' Strategy