

VALE OF AYLESBURY TRUST (VAHT) – UPDATE REPORT

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To receive an update report on the Vale of Aylesbury Trust (VAHT) operations over the last 12 months.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:-

- 2.1 Note the report.
- 2.2 Indicate any comments they might have, or further work they may wish to undertake as part of their work programme.

3. Executive summary

- 3.1 When AVDC's housing stock was transferred to VAHT in July 2006, VAHT undertook to fulfil a range of commitments to transferred tenants. AVDC undertook two reviews of the Transfer Promises and found that VAHT had fulfilled the vast majority.
- 3.2 The Chief Executive of VAHT has kindly agreed to attend this Scrutiny Committee to provide Members with an update of VAHT's operation over the last 12 months.
- 3.3 Members have been asked during October – November 2013 to submit any questions in advance of the meeting to VAHT that they wished to discuss at the meeting. The following has been received by Members and passed on to VAHT:-

From Councillor Mrs Brandis

- (i) When flats which are privately owned but the outside is maintained by VAHT need to have repairs/maintenance could the following reassurances be given:
- that people are not overcharged for the labour and materials; that only materials actually used are charged for.
 - that surveyors check what actually needs doing and don't assume it needs doing.
 - that the final work is then checked by VAHT properly not a visual check from the ground.
 - that the cost is kept to a reasonable level.
- (ii) Is there any possibility that those that have had work done to the outside at their own expense could be given a reduced portion of the bill for the whole block?
- (iii) On another subject could VAHT (Councillor Mrs Brandis has previously spoken to Richard de Ville about this issue) talk more thoroughly to the residents when they want to develop old garage blocks? A great deal of heartache at Bishopstone would have been saved if the resident had known how little of her garden she would be losing.

Other Questions

- (iv) Can VAHT elaborate on how they are engaging with communities to bring forward rural exception schemes?

- (v) How have the increased levels of right to buy discounts offered to residents and/or the recent uplift in the housing market impacted on right to buy sales?

4. Response to Key Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The review of services offered by VAHT to its relevant is relevant to AVDC's Corporate Plan 2011-2015 with the priority theme "Protecting and improving the living experience in the Vale."

Contact Officer
Background Documents

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None