



Title: Petitions Update

Report of: Managing Director

Purpose of report

1. To provide the Board of progress with petitions received since the last update at meeting of the Board on 21 May 2015.

Background

2. The Board agreed, at its meeting on 13 April 2006, a protocol for the handling of petitions received by the company.
3. The protocol requires that a quarterly progress report be submitted to the Board for information. Progress with outstanding petitions is detailed in the Appendix.

Link to Values

4. This report relates to the Company values of being
 - Customer focused
 - Open and honest
 - Accountable

Risk Management Implications

5. There is a risk of impact on customer satisfaction if petitions are not handled effectively.

Value for Money Implications

6. There are no value for money implications directly arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

7. There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

Health Implications

9. Although there are no direct health implications as a result of this report, the successful handling of the petitions would have positive impact on the health and well being of Gateshead residents.

Environmental Implications

10. There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

Consultation carried out

11. The protocol for handling petitions received by the company requires that the Managing Director or Strategic Employee will arrange for the ward Councillors to receive a copy of the petition and seek their views on the content. The Councillor who submitted the petition will also be consulted if he or she is not one of the ward Councillors.
12. The protocol also requires that it will be appropriate to undertake one or more of the following actions: -
 - holding a meeting with the (lead) petitioner/s and/or any other relevant parties, e.g. ward Councillors, the police, strategic partners;
 - holding a site visit;
 - carrying out a consultation exercise with tenants on the issues raised by the petition.

Impact on Customers

13. Depending upon the outcome of a petition submitted, there could be an impact on customer, for example a change in policy.

Recommendation

14. To note progress with petitions received since the last update.



PETITIONS SUBMITTED TO THE GATESHEAD HOUSING COMPANY

Date received	Ref	From	Issue	Action to date
16.10.12	6/12	Petition received from residents of Beacon Court, Fell Court and Lough Court	Petition regarding replacement of windows	<p>A package of improvement works to these blocks, including roof renewals and replacement windows has been approved for inclusion within the 2015/16 Capital Programme. The works are to be part funded through Gateshead Council's Warm Up North (WUN) initiative subject to funding arrangements. The detailed proposals are currently out for tender. Submissions are due back by 13 March 2015 and they will then be subject to evaluation. Prices have now been returned and are being evaluated. The final specification will then be agreed and it is anticipated that works will commence on site in July.</p> <p>Update September 2015 Since the last update, officers from the Design Technical Services and TGHC have undertaken a formal review of the submission from WUN. A value engineering exercise has identified alternative specifications for the window designs and costs. This review will mean that the proposed July start date will not be achieved. Local ward members have been updated on the delay and the further work underway to achieve value for money on work costs and maintain the desired quality standards. The review of alternate specifications and designs is ongoing and will inform the works package that is delivered.</p>
13.11.12	7/12	Petition received from residents of East Street flats	Petition regarding replacement of windows	The company and council are working with partners to explore all options for work to Multi Storey blocks, including insulation and window replacement.

Date received	Ref	From	Issue	Action to date
				The lead petitioner was updated as part of the November 'Multi-storey Service Improvement Group' meeting. An update was provided on the Town Centre heating scheme (CHP), recently approved by cabinet. Details on the CHP will be developed in conjunction with Gateshead Council after which further updates will be provided to residents in these blocks. Work on the CHP is scheduled to commence later this year.
16.10.13	2/13	Petition received from residents of Birtley Villas	Residents have raised concerns about access to the blocks	Construction Services have now concluded works to the blocks and access has been improved. Once reported, this can be removed from the petitions schedule
7.8.14 Submitted to The Gateshead Housing Company	1/15	Petition received from residents of Meadow Lane, Dunston	Petition requesting no ball playing sign on the Estate as the playing of football is causing damage their properties and vehicles	Petition acknowledged and lead petitioner and ward councillors informed that Housing Manager will investigate the petition. A site visit is being carried out and lead petitioner and ward councillors will be updated following this.