

**Economic Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Committee
September 2nd 2015**

Aspire Housing Letting System

Sue Davies and Debra Barry from Aspire addressed the Committee to explain how the Letting System works. They also answered a number of questions from members that alluded to case studies of Borough residents.

It was noted that the percentage of nominations that were let in Quarter One was significantly below the target of 75%. Given that the target is normally reached, there was no satisfactory answer available to explain this anomaly. A written explanation was requested.

It was agreed that Aspire would meet with the Committee again in March 2016.

Newcastle Housing Advice Contract Monitoring

The figures for Quarter One were presented and accepted.

Newcastle Town Centre Partnership

A comprehensive Report was considered. The Report gave a detailed report on the successful ballot for the Business Improvement District. In addition details were given of the extensive Events Programme. In addition the Committee was given information on the Student Night Initiative, the Purple Flag Accreditation Scheme, Liaison with Market Traders and the CCTV Monitoring Volunteer Project.

It was noted with satisfaction that the Vacancy Rate continues to be reduced and footfall continues to increase.

The Committee requested that data from the Retail Index Scheme should be presented at the next meeting.

Kidsgrove Town Centre Partnership

It was pleasing to note that a meeting chaired by Councillor John Williams had taken place where key stakeholders had the chance to discuss the future of the Go Kidsgrove project. It is pleasing to note that progress is now finally taking place particularly with regard to the Website and Christmas lights.

Portfolio Holder Question Time.

An interesting and informative presentation was given by Councillor Bert Proctor on the subjects of the Joint Local Plan and the Planning Peer Review.

Councillor Dave Stringer
Chair