

**Members' Briefing Note: Audit Commission Reinspection, 2009**

Together with the Head of Development Strategy and the Policy & Performance Officer I attended a video conference with the Audit Commission Housing Inspectorate on the afternoon of 6 July, 2009. This finished tight to the deadline for reports to the Panel so, rather than miss the agenda of this meeting, a briefing note has been written at short notice. A full description will be presented to the Panel on 15 July.

All dates below refer to 2009 unless otherwise stated. The outcome of the conference is that the Inspectorate will:

1. write to us by close of the week ending 10 July with all key diary dates for the reinspection
2. expect Copeland to complete and return a comprehensive self-assessment and evidential document list by 24 August
3. be on site in Copeland over two weeks beginning 19 October. 2 days in week 1 and 4 days in week 2.
4. expect to send a copy of the inspection report to Copeland on or before the end of November
5. convene a round table meeting in Copeland on 18 December
6. expect to publish the final report early in 2010.

The video conference lasted two hours and a lot of ground was covered. There are numerous points to note that will be discussed with members at the Panel's meeting on 15 July. However, it is worth pointing out that:

- strategic housing service inspections have a strong focus on the role of elected members
- inspectors will want to see how the Council makes the best use of existing RSL stock (including allocations policies and relet times) and stock in the private sector
- the Lead Inspector is the head of the southwest region, where 85% of strategic housing inspections result in local authorities having no stars or only one star. It is therefore very difficult for strategic housing to get a good rating.
- Much more than landlord services (which are self-contained), strategic housing is subject to strong corporate influences within local authorities. The inspection will therefore include a strong corporate focus.

Laurie Priebe  
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