

Report to Housing Standing Panel

Date of meeting: 23 March 2009

**Subject: Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2008/09
(Key Action Plan) – Progress Report**



Officer contact for further information: Alan Hall, Director of Housing (01992 56 4004)

Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins, Office of the Chief Executive (01992 56 4607)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

That the Panel considers the Progress Report for the Key Action Plan contained within the HRA Business Plan 2008/9 and provides any feedback to the Housing Portfolio Holder and Director of Housing accordingly.

Report:

1. In March 2008, the Council's latest Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan (2008/9) was produced, incorporating the Repairs & Maintenance Business Plan. This document set out the Council's objectives, strategies and plans as landlord, in relation to the management and maintenance of its own housing stock.
2. An important section of the HRA Business Plan is the Key Action Plan. This sets out the proposed actions the Council would be taking, primarily, over the next year. Having included the Key Action Plan within the Business Plan, it is good practice that the progress made with the stated actions is monitored; one of the Scrutiny Panel's Terms of Reference is to review progress during the year.
3. Ordinarily, a Progress Report is produced after nine months, and reported to the January meeting of the Housing Scrutiny Panel. However, due to staff sickness at that time, this was not possible. However, a progress report as at February 2009 has been produced, for consideration at this meeting, is attached as an appendix to this report.
4. It should be noted that a number of tasks included within the Key Action Plan relating to responsive repairs have not yet been completed, since they are included as part of the project to appoint a private repairs management company to manage the response repairs service, which has been agreed in principle by the Cabinet. A separate member-level Repairs Management Contract Advisory Group (including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Housing Scrutiny Panel) has been formed to oversee the arrangements.
5. The Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider the Progress Report and to feed back to the Housing Portfolio Holder and Director of Housing any comments it considers appropriate.
6. The HRA Business Plan for 2009/10 is reported for consideration elsewhere on the Scrutiny Panel's agenda for this meeting.