

HOMELESS STRATEGY ACTION PLAN – 6 MONTH REVIEW BY THE HOUSING SCRUTINY PANEL– JANUARY 2010

Action	Priority	Target Date	Comments	Progress	Responsibility
Continue to keep the number of households in temporary accommodation to a minimum and within the Government's target	High	On-going	The Council met the Government's target 3 years before the 2010 deadline	The target continues to be met	Housing Options Manager
Continue to keep the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for the single homeless to a minimum	High	On-going	Bed and Breakfast accommodation will only be used for the single homeless where there are severe management difficulties.	The Council has only 6 single homeless people living in bed and breakfast accommodation.	Asst Housing Options Manager Homelessness
Undertake a fresh tendering exercise for the Leader Lodge scheme	High	December 2009	As the proposal to develop the site with L&Q on shared ownership basis has fallen through, the scheme must be re-tendered	The scheme has been retendered and it has been recommended to the Housing Portfolio Holder that the site be sold to, and redeveloped by Moat	Director of Housing

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Work with Brentwood and Uttlesford District Council to investigate cross boundary provision for young parents	High	December 2009	Site identified in Ongar. Funding agreed. Preferred partner East Living has been appointed	The site has received planning permission and construction has commenced. East Thames is finalising the building contract with the developer, and will shortly seek funding from the HCA. Supporting People funding has been secured and the Project Team has re-introduced project team meetings to prepare for the building's completion.	Director of Housing
Continue to ensure 40% affordable housing on development sites	High	On-going	This now achieved through local plan	This continues to be required through the Local Plan, but two recent planning applications for green belt sites have secured 80% affordable housing.	Director of Housing
Work with Essex County Council and other partners on the delivery of appropriate provision for travelling families	High	March 2011	Work has commenced on a "Delivery Strategy" which will form part of the Epping Forest Gypsies and Travellers Plan, due to be finalised late 2009. The estimated number of pitches required by 2012 is around 34.	The first draft of the Delivery Strategy has been produced, but cannot be progressed further until the final list of sites have been identified.	Director of Housing

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To continuously review the financial support to given to the Epping Forest Housing Aid Scheme	High	On-going	This is essential in tackling homelessness.	The Cabinet agreed that additional Government grant funding of £7,500 received, be passed to EFHAS and that the amount underwritten be increased to £60,000.	Housing Options Manager
Develop the use of the recently introduced Mortgage Rescue Scheme	High	On-going	Key to this objective is maintaining good working relations with Citizens Advice Bureau and Moat.	Completed 4 Mortgage Rescues being more than any other authority in Essex, Sussex & Kent.	Housing Options Manager
Expand the "Sanctuary" Scheme for victims of domestic violence	Medium	On-going	5 schemes currently in place	No further progress as no additional scheme have been necessary	Housing Options Manager

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Convert the former Caretaker's flat for rooms for homeless 16-17 year olds at Norway House	Medium	September 2009	Completed	Completed	Asst Housing Options Manager (Homelessness)
To develop small scale "night stop" scheme where young single homeless people stay in private accommodation	Medium	December 2009	Prospective households need to be identified	No progress	Asst Housing Options Manager (Homelessness)
Report to Cabinet for consideration to be given for the Council to fund the homelessness prevention service, should the Government not continue to provide funding	Medium	December 2010	Awaiting decision from the Government.	The Government's Special Advisor on Homelessness has indicated that no further funding will be available for the service.	Assistant Director of Housing (Operations)

Action	Priority	Target Date	Comments	Progress	Responsibility
To continuously review the budget for Rental Loan Scheme	Medium	On-going	This is essential in tackling homelessness.	A report has been submitted to the Housing Portfolio Holder in January 2010, recommending that a virement of £7,000 is agreed from the finders fee budget	Housing Options Manager
Keep under review the possibility of additional chalets at Norway House	Low	March 2011	This no longer a priority on account of fewer numbers of households in temporary accommodation	Position unchanged	Director of Housing
Improve percentage of homeless decisions within 33 days to 75%	Low	On-going	This no longer a priority on account of the complexity of cases dealt with	Around 45% of homeless decisions are made within 33 days which is due to the complexity of cases.	Housing Options Manager