

Report to Housing Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 21 January 2010

Subject: Review of the Homelessness Strategy

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Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins (01992 56 4607)



Recommendation:

The Housing Scrutiny Panel is asked to undertake its 6-month review of the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan which is attached as an appendix to the report.

Report:

1. Under the Homelessness Act 2002, Local Authorities have a duty to review and publish their Homelessness Strategy on at least a 5-yearly basis. As this area of work regularly changes it was agreed that the Council's Strategy would be reviewed every three years. The Strategy links with the Council's Housing Strategy, Allocations Scheme, the Housing Services Strategy on Housing Advice and Allocations, and the Council Plan. The Strategy sets out achievements since 2006 and incorporates the needs and demands on the service and includes an Action Plan setting out work that needs to be undertaken over the coming three years.
2. At its meeting on 30 July 2009, as part of its Work Programme, the Housing Scrutiny Panel considered the Homelessness Strategy prior to its approval by the Cabinet. The Panel requested that it reviewed the Strategy's Action Plan on a six-monthly basis. This additional task has been added to the Panel's Work Programme.
3. The Panel is asked to undertake the first review of the Action Plan which is attached as an appendix to the agenda.