

Report to Housing Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 28 October 2010

Portfolio: Housing – Councillor D. Stallan

Subject: Homelessness Prevention Service

**Officer contact for further information:
Roger Wilson extension 4419**

Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins extension 4607



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

The Housing Scrutiny Panel are asked to consider the attached report on the future funding of the Homelessness Prevention Service and pass on their comments to both the Housing Portfolio Holder and the Cabinet.

Report:

1. At its meeting on 9 September 2010, when considering performance on a range of Council services and cost indicators including homelessness, Members of the Finance and Performance Management Scrutiny Panel shared the concern of officers that performance on homelessness may go down if the Homelessness Prevention Service was discontinued. The Panel appreciated that, apart from the “social cost” of either reducing or losing the service, the financial cost to the Council may be greater than the cost of keeping the service. The Panel asked if it could consider (“pre-scrutinise”) the attached report on the future funding of the Homelessness Prevention Service before it was considered by the Cabinet.
2. As due to committee cycles this would not be possible, the Panel asked for the report to be considered instead by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the first instance. However, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee officer Agenda Planning Group agreed that it would be more appropriate for the Housing Scrutiny Panel to “pre scrutinise” the report as it concerns a service within the Housing Directorate.
3. The Panel is therefore asked to consider the attached report and pass on their comments to the Housing Portfolio Holder and the Cabinet.