

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

<b>Action</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Target Date</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
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 (of reducing the numbers living in temporary accommodation by 50%) 3 years before the 2010 deadline	Target continues to be achieved with only 24 households in Hostel accommodation and 22 in other temporary housing	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 5 single homeless people living in bed and breakfast accommodation.	Asst Housing Options Manager (Homelessness)

Action	Priority	Target Date	Comments	Progress	Responsibility
Undertake a fresh tendering exercise for the Leader Lodge scheme	High	January 2011	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 was retendered and the Housing Portfolio Holder agreed the site be sold to, and redeveloped by Moat. Moat subsequently withdrew due to concerns about North Weald being a designated protected area. The second best tender was not considered to be acceptable. Options for the future of Leader Lodge are being re-evaluated.	Director of Housing
Work with Brentwood and Uttlesford District Council to investigate cross boundary provision for young parents	High	January 2011	Site identified in Ongar. Funding agreed. Preferred partner East Living has been appointed	Currently on-site with completion being due in January 2011. EFDC now has nomination rights to 8 (of a total of 13) properties	Director of Housing

Action	Priority	Target Date	Comments	Progress	Responsibility
Continue to ensure 40% affordable housing on development sites	High	On-going	This now achieved through local plan	Through this approach, 133 new affordable homes are due to be completed this year with a further 193 new affordable homes in 2011/2012. In addition, developers are currently proposing provision of around 290 affordable homes on sites that do not yet have planning permission	Director of Housing
Work with Essex County Council and other partners on the delivery of appropriate provision for travelling families	High	March 2012	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 requirement to provide a specified number of pitches for travelling families has been withdrawn. Pitch provision is now being dealt with under normal planning processes. The Delivery Strategy (drafted under the previous proposals) needs to be revised to reflect the changes. Housing officers are working with the Gypsy Roma & Traveller Project Group on a range of issues.	Assistant Director of Housing (Private Sector & Resources)

Action	Priority	Target Date	Comments	Progress	Responsibility
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 in July 2009, that additional Government grant funding of £7,500 received, be passed to EFHAS and that the amount underwritten be increased to £60,000. However, in discussion with EFHAS, the Housing Options Manager has been advised that they may not be able to assist with any additional bonds, unless the Council assists them further	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 6 Mortgage Rescues being more than any other authority in Essex.	Housing Options Manager
Expand the "Sanctuary" Scheme for victims of domestic violence	Medium	On-going	5 schemes currently in place	6 Scheme now in place	Housing Options Manager

Action	Priority	Target Date	Comments	Progress	Responsibility
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. Some work was undertaken by a local church with very little interest from owners. Scheme not as essential due to the additional provision at Norway House. Suggest action is deleted	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. Therefore, a report on the future of the service will be considered by the Housing Scrutiny Panel with their comments being passed to the Housing Portfolio Holder & the Cabinet in December 2010	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.	The Housing Portfolio Holder agreed in January 2010, that a virement of £7,000 be made from the finder's fee budget to fund additional rental loans. In 2009/2010 39 households were assisted. There is currently no scope for any further rental loans apart from using monies repaid.	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

