

# ***Report to the Housing Scrutiny Panel***

***Date of meeting: 7 December 2005***

**Portfolio: Housing – Cllr M. Heavens**

**Subject: Joint Choice Based Lettings Scheme – Oral Update**

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**Committee Secretary: Zoe Folley (ext 4532)**

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## **Recommendations:**

**That an oral report be received on the outcome of the bid to the ODPM for funding to implement a Joint Choice Based Lettings Scheme by the Herts and Essex Housing Options Consortium.**

## **Report**

1. At its last meeting, the Panel recommended to the Housing Portfolio Holder (which was subsequently agreed) that the Council should join together with five neighbouring local authorities and the registered social landlords that operate within our areas to:

- Form the Herts and Essex Housing Options Consortium to establish, commission and manage a Joint Choice Based Lettings Scheme; and
- Submit a bid for £96,000 to the ODPM's Regional Fund, to assist with the implementation of a Joint Scheme.

2. The bid was subsequently submitted by the Consortium by the closing date. A copy of the final version of the bid is attached for the Scrutiny Panel's information.

3. The ODPM has said that it would announce the outcome of the bids in November 2005. Therefore, if an announcement has been made, an oral report will be provided to the Scrutiny Panel on the outcome of the Consortium's bid and, if successful, the next steps.