

Report to Housing Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 19th July 2011

Portfolio: Housing – Cllr Mrs M. McEwen

Subject: Housing Strategy 2009-2012:

**(a) 12-Month Progress Report on Key
Action Plan 2010/11**

(b) New Key Action Plan 2011/12



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Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins (01992 56 4607)

Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) That the 12-Month Progress Report on the Housing Strategy’s Key Action Plan 2010/11 – attached as Appendix 1 – be considered, with any comments passed to the Housing Portfolio Holder and Director of Housing accordingly; and**
- (2) That the proposed new Key Action Plan 2011/12 – attached as Appendix 2 – be recommended to the Cabinet for adoption.**

Report:

1. At its meeting in September 2009, the Council’s Cabinet adopted the Housing Strategy 2009-2012. This followed the Housing Scrutiny Panel considering in detail, and approving for consultation, an earlier “Consultation Draft” Housing Strategy, and a major Consultation Exercise being undertaken with the Council’s partners, key stakeholders and the public over a three-month period. The Consultation Exercise included a one-day Housing Strategy Conference, to which all the consultees were invited.

2. The Housing Strategy assesses the District’s current and future housing needs - having particular regard to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment produced by six local authorities in the eastern part of the London Commuter Belt Sub-Region - and sets out the Council’s approach to meeting those needs. As well as taking account of national, regional and sub-regional priorities, it also links with other Council and non-Council strategies that both influence, and are influenced by, the Housing Strategy.

3. The Strategy also included a Key Action Plan, which set out the proposed actions that would be taken by the Council to contribute towards the achievement of the housing objectives over the 3 years of the Housing Strategy. When adopting the Housing Strategy, the Cabinet agreed that Key Action Plans should be produced and updated on an annual basis for approval by the Cabinet, and that progress with the Key Action Plans should be monitored on a 6-monthly basis by the Housing Scrutiny Panel, in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

4. Last year, the Cabinet adopted the second Key Action Plan for the Housing Strategy, on the recommendation of the Housing Scrutiny Panel. The first 6-Month Progress Report on this Key Action Plan was considered by the Scrutiny Panel in March 2011, and the 12-Month Progress Report is attached as Appendix 1, which the Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider, and to provide any comments to the Housing Portfolio Holder and Director of Housing.

5. It is now necessary for the Cabinet to adopt a Key Action Plan for the forthcoming year, which is the last year before the Housing Strategy is fully updated in 2012. An updated Key Action Plan is therefore attached at Appendix 2, which the Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider and recommend to the Cabinet for adoption in September 2011. In order to assist members, new and amended actions within the latest Key Action Plan are shown in ***bold italics***.