

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

***Date of meeting: 30 January 2006***



**Subject: Housing Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2005/6 – Progress Report**

**Officer contact for further information: Alan Hall, Head of Housing Services**

**Committee Secretary: Zoe Folley**

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## **Recommendations:**

**That the attached Progress Report on the Panel's Work Programme 2005/6 be noted.**

## **Report**

1. At its first meeting in July 2005, the Panel noted its Work Programme set by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
2. Attached is the current position with regard to each of the tasks assigned to the Panel, which includes additional tasks agreed by the Panel since July 2005.

**Housing Scrutiny Panel  
Work Programme 2005/6**

**PROGRESS REPORT**  
*(As at 1 January 2006)*

Item	Priority	Original Report Deadline	Current Position
<b>ORIGINAL WORK PROGRAMME</b>			
(1) Annual Ethnic Monitoring Review of Housing Applicants	High	July 2005	<b>Completed</b> - At the 21 July 2005 meeting.
(2) Updated draft Housing Service Strategies on Older People and Housing Management	Medium	July 2005	<b>Completed</b> – At the 21 July 2005 meeting.
(3) Updated draft Housing Strategy	High	Sept 2005	<b>Delayed</b> - Now to be presented to the Panel's next, or following, meeting, due to the wide-scale consultation that will need to be undertaken.
(4) Implementation of Choice Based Lettings	Medium	First Report – Sept 2005	<b>On Target</b> - First report considered at the meeting on 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2005. Agreement given to work in partnership with neighbouring authorities, and to submit a joint bid for funding to the ODPM, which was successful. Further reports on the operation of the scheme will be submitted to the Panel in due course
(5) Annual Review of the Housing Allocations Scheme	Medium	Sept 2005	<b>Completed</b> – At the 15 September 2005 meeting.  Officers' proposals were supported by the Panel, and subsequently agreed by the Cabinet.
(6) Six-monthly Progress Report on Local Supporting People Strategy Action Plan	Medium	Sept 2005	<b>Completed</b> – At the 7 December 2005 meeting (6 months after adoption of the Strategy).

(7) Six-monthly Progress Report on Housing Services Development Plan Action Plan	Medium	Sept 2005 and March 2006	<b>On Target</b> - First six monthly report considered at the 15 September 2005 meeting.
(8) Report on Findings of Private Sector House Condition Survey	Medium	Dec 2005	<b>Delayed</b> – The survey has nearly been completed. It is intended to present a report on the surveys findings to the Panel in late April / early May 2006.
(9) Updated draft HRA Business Plan	Medium	March 2006	<b>Not yet due</b> - The Draft HRA Business Plan will be reported to the Panel in late April / early May 2006.
(10) Updated draft Local Supporting People Strategy	High	March 2006	<b>Not yet due</b> - The draft Local Supporting People Strategy will be reported to the next meeting.
(11) Six-monthly Progress Report on Housing Strategy Action Plan	Medium	March 2006	<b>Completed &amp; Provided Early</b> - Due to the new Housing Strategy not yet being ready, a Six-month Progress Report on the current Housing Strategy was considered at the 15 September 2005 meeting.
(12) Draft Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy	High	March 2006	<b>Delayed</b> – The Policy cannot be revised until the results of the Private Sector House Condition Survey have been analysed, and the outcome of the Governments proposed changes to the disabled facilities grants regime is know. It is intended that the draft policy will be produced for consideration in September 2006.
(13) Initiatives for Reducing the Number of Empty Properties in the Private Sector	High	March 2006	<p><b>Slightly delayed</b> - Agreed at the 21 July 2005 meeting that the Panel should consider a few reports on the issues, leading up to a draft Empty Property Strategy to be considered in March 2006.</p> <p>A scoping report on the proposed scrutiny was reported to the 15 September 2005 meeting of the Panel.</p> <p>A report on the possible use of collaborative initiatives and enforcement for inclusion within the Empty Property Strategy is being presented to this meeting of the Panel.</p>

### ISSUES ADDED TO WORK PROGRAMME DURING THE YEAR

(14) Discretionary rights to be provided to introductory tenants	High	Sept 2005	<b>Completed</b> - At the 15 September 2005 meeting
(15) Review of Housing Service Strategy on Tenant Participation	Medium	Sept 2005	<b>Completed</b> - At the 15 September 2005 meeting
(16) Homelessness Strategy	Medium	March 2006	<b>Reported to this Meeting</b> – Following consideration by the Panel at this meeting, a consultation exercise will be undertaken, following which the Housing Portfolio Holder will be asked to approve the final version.
(17) Member Briefings	Medium	October 2005	<b>Completed</b> – A Members Information Evening was held in September 2005, and two Briefings on Basic Housing Law were held in October 2005
(18) Increasing the amount of affordable housing	High	March 2006	<b>Not yet due</b> – The scope of the report was agreed at the Panel's last meeting. It hoped to report to a meeting of the Panel in March 2006.
(19) Requests from Witness Mobility Scheme	Medium	December 2005	<b>Completed</b> – At the 7 December 2005 meeting.
(20) Housing Service Strategy on Rent Administration and Collection	Low	January 2006	<b>Reported to this Meeting</b> – Prior to consideration and approval by the Housing Portfolio Holder.
(21) Housing Service Strategy on House Sales, Land Sales and Leasehold Services	Low	January 2006	<b>Reported to this Meeting</b> – Prior to consideration and approval by the Housing Portfolio Holder.
(22) Housing Service Strategy on Allocations	Low	March 2006	<b>Not yet due</b> – It is proposed that the updated strategy is considered at a meeting of the Panel in March 2006 (after consultation with the Tenants and Leaseholders Federation) prior to consideration and approval by the Housing Portfolio Holder.
(23) Housing Service Strategy on Housing Advice	Low	March 2006	<b>Not yet due</b> – It is proposed that the updated strategy is considered at a meeting of the Panel in March 2006 (after consultation with the CABx), prior to consideration and approval by the Housing Portfolio Holder.