

Report to the Housing Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting: 30 January 2006

Portfolio: Housing – Cllr M. Heavens

Subject: Homelessness Strategy

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

Committee Secretary: Zoe Folley

Recommendations:

- 1) That the Scrutiny Panel considers the draft Consultation Draft Homelessness Strategy attached and provides comments to the Head of Housing Services for incorporation;**
- 2) That the Consultation Draft be sent to all organisations with an interest in homelessness and affordable housing within the District, seeking their comments; and**
- 3) That, at the end of the consultation period, the Homelessness Strategy be revised to take account of comments received and then submitted to the Housing Portfolio Holder for final approval.**

Report

1. It is a requirement of the Homelessness Act 2002 that all local housing authorities must produce and publish a Homelessness Strategy. The Council's first statutory Homelessness Strategy was produced in July 2003.

2. In view of changes that have occurred since 2003, it is now necessary for the Council to review and update its Homelessness Strategy. Consideration of the draft Strategy, prior to consultation and subsequent approval by the Housing Portfolio Holder, is included within the Housing Scrutiny Panel's Work Programme for 2005/6.

3. Attached is the draft Consultation Draft of the Homelessness Strategy that has been produced by the Housing Needs Manager. The Panel is asked to consider the Consultation Draft and provide officers with any comments. The Housing Needs Manager will be in attendance at the meeting to answer questions.

4. It is proposed that, after consideration by the Scrutiny Panel, the Consultation Draft will be sent to all organisations with an interest in homelessness and affordable housing within the District, seeking their comments on the Draft.

5. At the end of the consultation period, the Homelessness Strategy will be revised to take account of comments received and submitted to the Housing Portfolio Holder for final approval.

6. The attachments referred to in the strategy are not attached however will be circulated prior to the meeting as supplementary information.