

Report to Housing Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 3 March 2006



Subject: Epping Forest Local Supporting People Strategy – 2006-2010

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Committee Secretary: A Hendry (ext 4246)

Recommendations/Decision Required:

That the Housing Scrutiny Panel considers the Epping Forest Local Supporting Strategy 2006-2010 (circulated separately) as an appendix to this agenda, and put forward their comments to the Housing Portfolio Holder prior to its endorsement.

Report:

1. “Supporting People”, a major Government initiative, introduced a new policy and funding framework for supported housing and ancillary welfare services in April 2003. It has brought together a range of national and local funding regimes consolidating them into a cash-limited “single pot” administered by a Commissioning Body at local (County) level.
2. Supported housing can include the provision of accommodation for older people, physically disabled, people with learning disabilities, the mentally ill, young people with drug and alcohol problems etc.
3. In addition to Essex County Council producing a 5-year Supporting People Strategy, this Council has adopted the practice of producing an annual Local Supporting People Strategy. This Council is the only one in Essex to adopt such an approach. This document sets out, for the future, the means of planning and delivering locally, high quality housing related support services to vulnerable people. The Council produced its first Local Strategy in 2002, which in the past has been reviewed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
4. Under the new Overview and Scrutiny arrangements, the Housing Scrutiny Panel is now asked to consider the draft Local Supporting People Strategy for 2006-2010, which is attached as an appendix to the agenda, and recommend its adoption to the Housing Portfolio Holder.

Consultation undertaken:

5. Local providers and user representatives involved in supported housing have been consulted on the 2006–2010 Local Strategy through the Epping Forest Inclusive Forum, which comprises such representatives. Consultation workshops were held on 31 January 2006, to discuss the draft Local Strategy, and comments from the workshops have been incorporated within the final version attached.

Resource implications:

Budget provision: Nil

Personnel: Nil

Land: Nil

Community Plan/BVPP reference: "Community Care"

Relevant statutory powers: N/A

Background papers: Local Supporting People Strategy

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: Certain aspects of the Strategy relating to the reduction of crime and disorder. Other aspects relate to the equality of provision for people in the community.

Key Decision reference: (if required) N/A