

Report to the Housing Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 27 April 2006



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

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

Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry, ext.4246

Recommendations:

That the Progress Report on the Panel's Work Programme 2005/6, attached as an Appendix, 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 as an Appendix 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 29 March 2006)**

Item	Priority	Original Report Deadline	Current Position
ORIGINAL WORK PROGRAMME			
(1) Annual Ethnic Monitoring Review of Housing Applicants	High	July 2005	Completed - At the 21 July 2005 meeting.
(2) Updated draft Housing Service Strategies on Older People and Housing Management	Medium	July 2005	Completed – At the 21 July 2005 meeting.
(3) Updated draft Housing Strategy	High	Sept 2005	Delayed – Due to awaiting the outcome of the Panel’s discussions on ways of increasing affordable housing and to the wide-scale consultation that will need to be undertaken. Now to be presented to the Panel’s July meeting.
(4) Implementation of Choice Based Lettings	Medium	First Report – Sept 2005	In Progress - First report considered at the meeting on 15 th September 2005. Further reports on the operation of the scheme have been considered by the Panel. Further reports will be will be submitted in due course.
(5) Annual Review of the Housing Allocations Scheme	Medium	Sept 2005	Completed – 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	Completed – 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	Reported to this meeting - The first six monthly report was considered at the 15 September 2005 meeting.
(8) Report on Findings of Private Sector House Condition Survey	Medium	Dec 2005	Reported to this meeting – The survey has been completed.
(9) Updated draft HRA Business Plan	Medium	March 2006	Reported to this meeting - The Draft HRA Business Plan has been produced. The Tenants and Leaseholders Federation will have been consulted prior to the meeting.
(10) Updated draft Local Supporting People Strategy	High	March 2006	Completed – At the 3 March 2006 meeting.
(11) Six-monthly Progress Report on Housing Strategy Action Plan	Medium	March 2006	Completed & Provided Early - 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) Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy	High	March 2006	Delayed – The Policy cannot be revised until the results of the Private Sector House Condition Survey have been analysed, and the outcome of the Government’s proposed changes to the disabled facilities grants regime is known. It is intended that the draft policy will be produced for consideration in July 2006.
(13) Initiatives for Reducing the Number of Empty Properties in the Private Sector	High	March 2006	In Progress - 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 2006. A scoping report on the proposed scrutiny was provided to the September 2005 meeting of the Panel, and a report on the use of collaborative initiatives and enforcement for inclusion within the Empty Property Strategy was considered at a later meeting. It is envisaged that a draft Strategy will be submitted to the Panel for consideration in July 2006.
ISSUES ADDED TO WORK PROGRAMME DURING THE YEAR			
(14) Discretionary rights to be provided to introductory tenants	High	Sept 2005	Completed - At the 15 September 2005 meeting

(15) Review of Housing Service Strategy on Tenant Participation	Medium	Sept 2005	Completed - At the 15 September 2005 meeting
(16) Homelessness Strategy	Medium	March 2006	Completed – At the 30 January 2006 meeting. A consultation exercise is currently being undertaken, following which the Housing Portfolio Holder will be asked to approve the final version.
(17) Member Briefings	Medium	October 2005	Completed – 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	Completed – At the 3 March 2006 meeting. The Cabinet was asked to consider the Panel's recommendations at its meeting on 10 April 2006.
(19) Requests from Witness Mobility Scheme	Medium	December 2005	Completed – At the 7 December 2005 meeting.
(20) Housing Service Strategy on Rent Administration and Collection	Low	January 2006	Completed – At the 30 January 2006 meeting.
(21) Housing Service Strategy on House Sales, Land Sales and Leasehold Services	Low	January 2006	Completed – At the 30 January 2006 meeting.
(22) Housing Service Strategy on Allocations	Low	March 2006	Completed – At the 3 March 2006 meeting.
(23) Housing Service Strategy on Housing Advice	Low	March 2006	Completed – At the 3 March 2006 meeting.
(24) Licensing Policy for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO)	High	July 2006	Not yet due – The requirement has arisen as a result of the Housing Act 2004
(25) Private Sector Housing Strategy	Medium	October 2006	Not yet due – The strategy will include reference to the final versions of the Empty Property Strategy, Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy and Licensing Policy for HMOs.