

Report to Housing Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 22 October 2013

Portfolio: Housing – Cllr D. Stallan

**Subject: Housing Strategy: 12-Month Progress
Report on Key Action Plan 2012/13**

Officer contact for further information:

Alan Hall – Director of Housing (01992 564004)

Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins



Recommendations:

That the 12-Month Progress Report on the Housing Strategy Key Action Plan 2012/13, attached as an Appendix, be considered, with any comments passed to the Housing Portfolio Holder and Director of Housing accordingly.

Report:

1. At its meeting in September 2009, the Council's Cabinet adopted the Housing Strategy 2009-2012. The Housing Strategy assesses the District's current and future housing needs and sets out the Council's approach to meeting those needs.
2. 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 first year of the Housing Strategy.
3. When adopting the Housing Strategy, the Cabinet also agreed that Key Action Plans for the Housing Strategy 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. The 12-month Progress Report on the Housing Strategy Key Action Plan 2012/13 was due to be considered by the Scrutiny Panel at its meeting in July 2013; however, the meeting was cancelled due to a lack of business. Therefore, the 12-Month Progress Report is attached as an Appendix (which has been updated to report on progress up until 1st October 2013), which the Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider and to provide any comments to the Housing Portfolio Holder and Director of Housing.
5. The Housing Strategy itself was due to be updated in 2012, for a further three-year period. However, the updating of the Housing Strategy has been deferred on two occasions by both the former Housing Portfolio Holder and, more recently, the current Housing Portfolio Holder Panel. The reason for deferring the update process was because most of the key issues relating to the production of the Council's Local Plan - that will inform and impact on the Housing Strategy - have been delayed and are still outstanding. The reasons for this delay were set out in a report to Cabinet on 22 July 2013 on the adoption of a revised Local Development Scheme. It was therefore agreed to defer the production of the new Housing Strategy until the Preferred Options Stage of the Council's Local Plan production has been

reached, which is currently expected to be around April 2014.

7. In the meantime, a new Housing Strategy Key Action Plan was formulated for 2013/14 and adopted by the Housing Portfolio Holder in August 2013 - on which the Scrutiny Panel will receive a 6-Month Progress Report at its next meeting in January 2014.