

Decision by Housing Portfolio Holder



Epping Forest
District Council

Report reference: C/ /2006

Date of report: 1 November 2006

Portfolio: Housing – Councillor D Stallan

Authors: (1) Roger Wilson (01992 564419)

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Committee Secretary: Gary Woodhall

Subject: Housing Services Strategies on (1) Equality and Diversity; and (2) Empty Council Dwellings

Decision:

That, following consideration by the Housing Scrutiny Panel and the Tenants and Leaseholders Federation, the Housing Services Strategies on Equality and Diversity and Empty Council Dwellings, attached as appendices, be approved and adopted.

ADVISORY NOTICE: <i>A Portfolio Holder may not take a decision on a matter on which he/she has declared a prejudicial interest. A Portfolio Holder with a personal interest must declare that interest when exercising delegated powers.</i>	
I have read and approve/do not approve (delete as appropriate) the above decision:	
Comments/further action required:	
Signed:	Date:
<i>Personal interest declared by Portfolio Holder/ conflict of interest declared by any other consulted Cabinet Member:</i>	<i>Dispensation granted by Standards Committee: Yes/No or n/a</i>
Office use only: Call-in period begins:	Expiry of Call-in period:

**After completion, one copy of this pro forma should be returned to
Democratic Services IMMEDIATELY**

Reason for decision:

1. The two service strategies set out in detail the approach the Council will take to the delivery of these two aspects of the housing service. They also assist Housing Services in continuing to achieve the Charter Mark award for customer service excellence, and ISO 9001:2000 Quality Accreditation, and help meet the required standard for Supporting People funding.

Options considered and rejected:

2. Not to approve and adopt the Housing Services Strategies.

Initialled as original copy by
Portfolio Holder:

Background Report:

1. Housing Service Strategies have been in place for many years and give more detail than the Council's main Housing Strategy on the various housing services provided. Prior to being approved by the Housing Portfolio Holder, they are considered in detail by the Housing Scrutiny Panel, the Tenants and Leaseholders Federation and other interested agencies. In total, 16 Housing Service Strategies have been produced to date.
2. The Strategies are produced to a common format that set out how individual housing services will be delivered. They have assisted Housing Services in achieving the Charter Mark award for customer service excellence, ISO 9001:2000 Quality Accreditation, and in a number of cases have been important to meeting the minimum requirement for Supporting People funding under the conditions of the contract.
3. The Housing Portfolio Holder is asked to approve and adopt a new Housing Service Strategy on Equality and Diversity and an updated Housing Service Strategy on Empty Council Dwellings, which are attached as appendices to the report.

Consultation

4. The Housing Scrutiny Panel and the Tenants and Leaseholders Federation considered both service strategies at their meetings held on the 31 and 17 October respectively. In addition, the Hate Crime Strategic Group has been consulted on the Housing Service Strategy on Equality and Diversity. Their comments have been included within the Services Strategies.

Resource implications:

Budget Provision:N/A

Personnel: N/A

Land: N/A

Council Plan/BVPP Ref : Meeting Housing Need

Relevant statutory powers: As set out in the housing service strategies

Background papers: Nil

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act: As set out in the housing service strategies