

Status report for Housing Portfolio Holder

Date	Scheme or enquiry	Progress report / comment
	Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy	Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy implemented April 2007. A public copy is to be placed on the council's web-site. Information leaflets are being produced for the new types of Housing Assistance and these are also being advertised in the Forester magazine and on display boards in Civic Offices. Progress with meeting the objectives in the Strategy is to be reported at Scrutiny Panel in October 2007.
	HMO Licensing	New EHO started March 2007. Systems and application forms being finalised. Publishing requirements for Licensing planned September 2007. Inspections of HMOs falling within the definition for mandatory licensing have commenced. Process is involved and progress slower than anticipated.
	Empty Property Strategy	Progress with meeting the objectives in the Strategy is to be reported at Scrutiny Panel in October 2007. Audit Commission advised that private sector homes vacant for >6 months will be subject to detailed audit this year.
	P.L.A.C.E Scheme (Go-East funded joint initiative)	Some difficulties in finding suitable properties and owners wishing to participate (other partner LAs experiencing similar problems). On the positive side - Env Health is getting a much better understanding and a more accurate picture of the number of Empty Properties in the district.
	C.A.R.E. Business Plan	Business Plan produced and out for consultation. Consultation period ends 31 August 2007.
	Park Homes	New Model Standards still not introduced. Park homes in the process of being issued with updated licences on change of ownership. Some serious cases of harassment being reported from residents re an owner who now has two large park homes in the District. Env Health liaising with Safer Communities.
	Housing Act 2004	Requirements of the Housing Act 2004 with regard to full house inspections under the new inspection regime being carried out. Decent Homes information now being recorded on Env - Health database.