

Draft Housing Strategy 2009 to 2014

Agenda Item 8(b)

Portfolio Area:

Report Presented by: Tim Lucas, Housing Research and Strategy Manager

Background Papers:

Homelessness Strategy 2008 to 2013
Affordable Housing Strategy 2009 to 2014
Housing Issues and Options April 2009

Web site links:

Draft Housing Strategy 2009 to 2014

<http://www.braintree.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/AA20B0CB-5E94-4180-979F-06CC52F2139E/0/DraftHousingStrategy20092014.pdf>

Corporate Implications: None in this report

Options: None in this report

Risks: None in this report

Executive Summary

The Draft Housing Strategy sets out the housing related aims over the next five years.

A 'Housing Issues and Options' document was published in April 09 and formed the start of the development of the new Housing Strategy.

Following the end of the consultation period, the draft Housing Strategy will be updated, as required. As part of the consultation process this draft document will be presented to each of the three Local Committees.

Closing date for consultation is the 18th September 09.

The final version will be considered by the Cabinet on 12th October 09.

Decision

This document is being presented to the Local Committees for comment as part of the consultation process.

Detail

The Housing Strategy that emerges from this consultation needs to cover more than just social housing. The housing duties of the district councils cover a wide and varied range. We influence current and future housing needs and affect local neighborhoods and their environment in a number of ways:-

For example:

We have a duty to assist people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness;

We plan the future development of the district, deciding where and how various locations will change in the future;

We monitor and study housing need and make sure enough new affordable homes are built;

We administer grants to help disabled people adapt their homes and vulnerable people to improve the condition of their property;

We maintain a register of people seeking social housing and set the allocations policy for how homes are let; *and*

We facilitate, lead and participate in partnerships with other agencies to ensure that local people live safely in well-maintained settings and receive the support they need.

Sections in Draft Housing Strategy

1. Increase the supply of affordable housing
2. Improve housing choices and mobility
3. Improve the condition of housing especially for vulnerable people
4. Prevent and reduce homelessness and reduce the use of temporary accommodation
5. Address the housing and support needs of vulnerable people
6. Improve the physical and social environment of our neighbourhoods
7. Make sure that housing investment supports local economic wellbeing
8. Improve the use of existing housing
9. Plan for the future, clarifying the location and type of housing need

Consultation

Our web site has a form for feedback to this consultation

We are arranging workshops for specific topics, at present the following are planned: -

Rural Housing: Friday 26th June 09

Physical and Social Environment: Monday 29th June 09

Empty Properties: Wednesday 1st July 09

Older People: Date to be confirmed

Invites have been sent to Councillors and other relevant organisations.

We will notify a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations of the consultation process and welcome conversations and responses on the draft strategy.

Corporate Implications				
Financial:	None a this stage			
Legal:	None			
Equalities & Diversity:	None a this stage			
Customer Impact:	None			
Environment & Climate Change:	None			
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Local Committees	Yes	Partners	Yes
	Public	Yes	Staff	Yes
Key Decision:	No			
Public/Private Report:	Public			
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