

Housing Strategy 2005 - 2008

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.2 The purpose of the report is to seek Members' approval for the Housing Strategy 2005-2008.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 **The latest draft of the Housing Strategy 2005 – 2008 be approved and;**
- 2.2 **Authority be delegated to the Housing Team Leader, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing, to make any necessary amendments to the Strategy, following feedback from the Government Office for the South West.**

3. Link to Corporate & Community Aims

- 3.1 Housing is a corporate priority.

4. Background

- 4.1 Each Local Housing Authority is required to have a current Housing Strategy that has been assessed as "Fit for Purpose" by the Government Office.
- 4.2 Following assessment by the Government Office South West, the previous Housing Strategy 2002-2005 was not considered to have reached a "Fit for Purpose" standard.
- 4.3 The Government Office South West agreed to assist the Housing Team in the production of the 2005-2008 Housing Strategy by giving feedback on each chapter as it was produced.
- 4.4 The agreed timetable was to have a "Fit for Purpose" Housing Strategy by 31st July 2005.
- 4.5 The first three chapters were sent to the Government Office South West for feedback in April 2005. The Housing Team were then informed that it would not be possible to meet the agreed deadline due to pressure of work at the Government Office.
- 4.6 A further deadline of 31st December was then agreed.

5. Current Situation

- 5.1 A draft copy of the completed Housing Strategy was sent to the Government Office in September 2005. However, the Government Office is still unable to confirm when they will be in a position to provide the necessary feedback in order to achieve a "Fit for Purpose" Housing Strategy.
- 5.2 The Housing Strategy has been out for stakeholder consultation for a period of 8 weeks. The consultation period ended on 14th November 2005.

5.3 A full copy of the Housing Strategy 2005 – 2008 will be sent to all Executive Members. Further copies will be available on request. Pending comments by the Government Office, the Strategy is currently a text-only version. A fully formatted final version will be completed and published once approved as Fit for Purpose.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 None arising directly from this report .The financial implications contained within the Strategy will be considered in the relevant budget rounds.

7. Community & Environmental Implications

7.1 The Housing Strategy sets out our plans for improving existing housing, providing more affordable homes and preventing homelessness in North Wiltshire

8. Human Resources Implications

8.1 None arising directly from this report

9. Equal Opportunities Implications

9.1 None arising directly from this report

Papers used to prepare the Report:

- Housing Strategy 2005-2008
- Correspondence from the Government Office South West

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC MANAGER TO THE EXECUTIVE - 1ST DECEMBER 2005

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