

**Housing Joint Overview and Scrutiny Task Group
Interim Report: August 2008**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To provide an update on progress made to date on the review, and to present options as to the approach to take in the future.

2. Progress Against Terms of Reference

- 2.1. In respect of housing services in Wiltshire, the task group has been commissioned to:

- (i) identify current service provision, standards and performance for:

- a) housing enabling and strategic role
- b) housing management
- c) care connect
- d) housing advice and homelessness, Choice Based Lettings
- e) private finance initiative
- f) supporting people
- g) gypsies and travellers
- h) private sector housing

progress so far

the task group has received initial information about each of the above services, and has identified a need to carry out more in depth analysis of the service provision, standards and performance for (a), (b), (d), (e) and (f) above (reasons for this decision to be detailed below following the 1st August meeting).

- (ii) identify service provision standards and performance for the new council

progress so far

service provision standards and performance for housing in the new council will be developed over the coming months, and the task group has asked for a report on this at its November meeting.

- (iii) identify any anticipated issues or problems and risk areas associated with the transition

progress so far

from initial analysis, the task group has identified the following key issues and risk areas which it intends to investigate further over the coming months: To complete following August meeting

- (iv) identify and recommend to the Implementation Executive preferred service delivery arrangements for the new Council
progress so far

the task group intends to work on this over the coming months and include full details in its final report to the JOSTB in
December/Jan....?

3. Meetings of the review group

3.1 To date the review group has met four times: Tuesday 15 April, Thursday 8 May, Wednesday 11 June and Friday 1st August 2008. Full agendas and minutes of all three meetings are available upon request.

- a. At the review group's first meeting (15 April), Members received a presentation from James Cawley (Interim Manager Adult Social Care) on the work of the officer housing work group. This set out the work being carried out within the eight areas that the housing project is broken into: housing enabling and strategic role; housing management; care connect; housing advice, homelessness, and choice based lettings; private finance initiative; supporting people; gypsies and travellers; and private sector housing.
- b. At the review group's second meeting (8 May), Members received detailed presentations from officers on the work being carried out in relation to housing strategy and development, homelessness, housing options and prevention, choice based lettings, housing management, private sector housing, supporting people, and care connect. At this meeting Members requested officers to provide performance information on all four districts for the group to consider at its next meeting.
- c. At the review group's third meeting (11 June), Members considered the performance information submitted by the housing officers and the Frontline Services Performance Improvement Manager. Members agreed that a more meaningful comparison of performance could be carried out at a meeting in August, once the data for quarter 1 of the 2008-09 Financial Year was available.
- d. On 11 June Members also considered the housing work group's risk register and issues log, as requested by the chairman. Members felt that more detail was required on the measures being taken to mitigate the risks identified, and requested further information at the group's next meeting, which was scheduled to be held on Friday 1 August.
- e. At the group's 4th meeting (1 August), it interviewed the new Corporate Director for Economic Development, Planning & Housing, the new Housing Service Director, and other lead officers for housing. This interview helped to clarify what are the top three or four issues the task group needs to focus on between now and the end of its review timetable. These issues are.....
- f. At this meeting, members also discussed more detailed information relating to the Housing Service risk register and issues log, a first quarter performance update for 2008/09, and benefits realisation. Findings from this consideration include.....

4. Draft Future Work Programme

Meeting		Item
August or September	-	Westlea Housing Association's Comment + Response
September?	-	Briefing Note on Housing Revenue Account Business Plan – being written for Implementation Executive
October or November	-	Finance paper (to include detail of the : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> resources available for housing services in the new council, including grants, income etc spending proposals for the new service savings to be realised <i>all such detail to be worked up in budget review workshops between Aug - Dec</i>
October	-	Draft Policy on new unified Choice Based Letting service "Homes 4 Wiltshire"
October – November	-	Draft Service Standards and Performance Goals/Targets for 09/10 <i>(again – to be worked up in budget review workshops between Aug – Dec)</i>
November	-	2 nd Quarter 08/09 Performance Report
??	-	Consideration of Councillor Representation on Housing Association Boards – paper being written for Joint Implementation Team and Implementation Executive
December	-	Report from Housing Service Director on preferred service delivery arrangements in the new council

5. Proposal

Members are asked to approve this as the task group's interim report for submission to the Joint Overview & Scrutiny Transition Board's 29th August meeting.