

**JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY TRANSITION – HOUSING TASK GROUP
2ND DECEMBER 2008**

KEY ISSUES AND RISKS UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. The task group is invited to question the Service Director about the key issues and risks currently facing Housing Services in the transition to the new council, using the information provided at earlier meetings as a prompt.

Action Required of the Task Group

2. To ascertain the updated position regarding key issues and risks affecting the transition for housing services.

Housing Top Ten Risks in the Transition

3. The Service Director for Housing listed the following in a report to the task group on the 1st August, as the top ten risks for housing being monitored as part of the transition process:
 - (i) drop in standards and performance
 - (ii) resources / capacity - unable to give the time necessary to support the transition
 - (iii) staff leaving / retention
 - (iv) inability to agree new policies
 - (v) loss of geographical knowledge of housing service
 - (vi) staff health, motivation and morale
 - (vii) communication with key stakeholders
 - (viii) failure to obtain delegated powers
 - (ix) other work streams in the transition that housing depends upon – fall behind the agreed timetable
 - (x) lack of priority given to capital funding schemes

Other Issues Identified from the 1C4W Day 1 Plan and Critical Path

4. In addition to the above, the scrutiny support officer has identified the following matters from the 1C4W Day 1 Plan and the Critical Path, which may be of interest to members in discussing the key issues and risks associated with housing services in the transition:
 - a) contractual arrangements, particularly with LSVTs to be reviewed by the end of 2008
 - b) the credit crunch and its impact on affordable housing schemes for the next capital programme 2009-12
 - c) strategic housing governance arrangements to be agreed by the IE before the 31st March 2009, so that there is a clear understanding of the decision making process, reporting arrangements and accountability.

Conclusion

5. The task group is invited to discuss the above key issues and risks with the Service Director for Housing.

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