

**JOINT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY TRANSITION – HOUSING TASK GROUP  
2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2008**

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**FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR OVERSEEING THE TRANSITION OF  
THE HOUSING SERVICE TOWARDS 1C4W**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform the Housing Task Group of revised future arrangements for the overseeing of the transition of the Housing Service to the new council.

**Action Required of the Task Group**

2. Members are invited to note the report.

**Background**

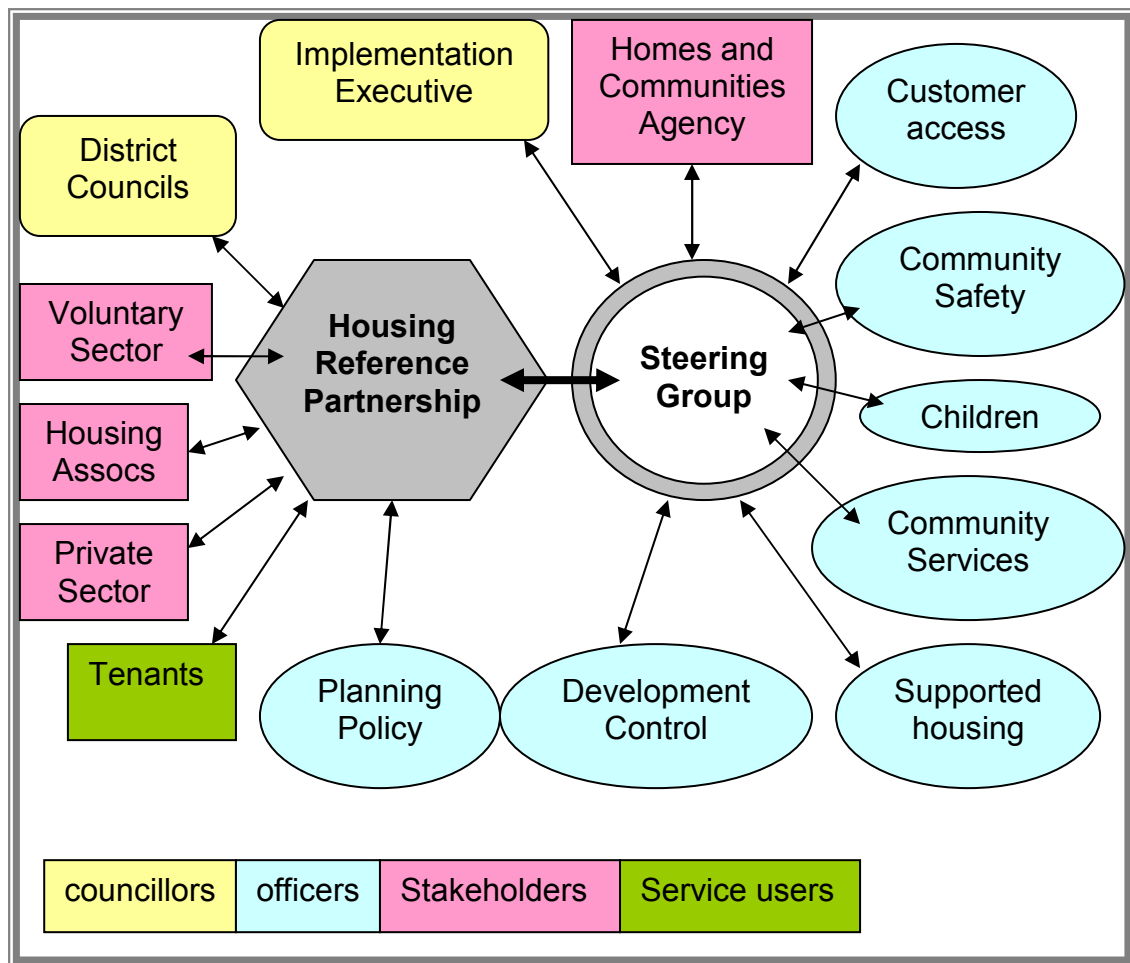
3. At the point when the Government agreed to local government reorganisation in Wiltshire, the four District Housing Portfolio Holder/Champions agreed to work together to provide a cross county perspective on the direction of travel for the housing service, and since December 2007, that group has met regularly until the summer 2008.
4. During the summer the Implementation Executive also recognised the need to identify Housing IE Portfolio Holders and appointed Councillors Fear, Brown and Thomson to that role.
5. Until 31 March 2009 the districts of course retain responsibility for housing matters, however there is also now an important role for the IE to agree on policy and other matters concerning the delivery of housing services from 1 April 2009.
6. It is also necessary for the housing service to develop a housing partnership involving external stakeholders. As part of the Local Area Agreement work that sits under the Wiltshire Assembly, officers have been planning a housing partnership conference. However this may take some time to deliver and there is certainly a current and pressing need for a group to be set up that provides regular engagement with housing stakeholders.

## Organisations and services that need to be involved in planning the Housing Service

Organisation	Activity	Representative
District Councils	Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portfolio Holders</li> <li>• Heads of Housing</li> </ul>
Implementation Executive 1C4W	Housing  Planning  Economic Development Community Safety  Supporting people Adult Care  Children's' Services EDP&H Gypsies and Travellers Customer Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portfolio Holders</li> <li>• Director of Housing</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portfolio Holders</li> <li>• Lead officer on planning policy</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director Development</li> <li>• Director Economy &amp; enterprise</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director of Community Safety</li> <li>• Director Adult Care</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Targeted Support</li> <li>• Director</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• G &amp; T Sites manager</li> <li>• Head of Customer Access</li> </ul>
Service Users	Tenant reps from housing association and Council Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One rep from each stock transfer association</li> <li>• Chair of Salisbury Panel</li> </ul>
Citizens Advice Bureau	Housing Advice and sector champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A manager that can represent the county wide CAB service</li> </ul>
Home Builders Federation	Housing Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Either a HBF officer or manager/director of a developer.</li> </ul>
Local business	Private Sector renting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landlord or letting agent</li> </ul>
Homes and Communities Agency	Affordable Housing Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Director</li> </ul>

## Proposed Structure

7. It will be necessary to bring together officers, councillors, and external stakeholders in such a way as to allow effective partnership working to operate and to facilitate timely and well briefed decision making to take place at the Implementation Executive and the district councils. The chart below sets out how the respective bodies could link together.



- a. **Housing Reference Partnership** It is proposed that between now and 31 March 2009 the Reference Partnership should be the main partnership vehicle bringing together:-
- i. housing portfolio holders;
  - ii. external stakeholders such as CAB, Stock Transfer housing associations, developers and private sector landlords;
  - iii. housing and planning policy lead officers;
  - iv. tenant representatives from the three stock transfer associations and council housing.

The reference partnership would meet monthly and consider matters such as the harmonisation of policy, performance and strategic direction of the housing service. The Reference Partnership would also be able to nominate an external stakeholder to the Coordinating Group of the Wiltshire Assembly. The Reference partnership would then be able to make recommendations on matters to go before the Steering Group and to go to the Implementation Executive.

- b. Housing Steering Group** It is proposed that this group would consist of:-
- i. Implementation Exec Housing Portfolio Holders
  - ii. Officers representing planning, community services and children's services, housing, community safety and customer access
  - iii. Homes and Communities Agency

The group would also meet monthly and consider the same agenda as the Housing Reference Partnership, including any recommendations. It would then be necessary for the Steering Group to make recommendations to the Implementation Executive.

- c. Frequency** It is proposed that for the foreseeable future each Group meets monthly, with the partnership meeting in the morning and the steering group meeting on the same day.

**Recommendations Agreed by the Former Housing Portfolio Holders / Champions Group**

- 8. That future arrangements for councillor and wider stakeholder involvement in the setting up of the Housing Service as part of 1C4W should be initiated immediately in accordance with the proposed structures and relationships in paragraph 7 above
- 9. The Director of Housing should immediately plan a timetable for a programme of meetings between now and 31 March 2009, and contact both internal and external partners and service users to invite them to take part in either the Steering Group or Reference Partnership.

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**Report Author: Graham Hogg, Service Director for Housing**