

Meeting: COUNCIL
Portfolio Area: HOUSING
Date: 21ST SEPTEMBER 2005

HOUSING STRATEGY AND HOUSING BUSINESS PLAN – DRAFT MINUTES OF SCRUTINY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE – 12TH SEPTEMBER 2005
(CONSITUTIONAL SERVICES)

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1 PURPOSE

To report to Council the draft Minute of the Scrutiny Overview Committee Meeting (12TH September 2005) concerning the Housing Strategy and Housing Business Plan that is reported elsewhere on the agenda for Council.

2 EXTRACT FROM DRAFT MINUTES

“HOUSING STRATEGY AND HOUSING BUSINESS PLAN

The Committee received a presentation from the officers who had worked on the two key documents. It was explained that the Housing Strategy set out a framework for the Council to achieve all its ambitions, including Decent Homes, by 2010. The priorities were to improve our homes; improve the customer experience of our service; ensure the development of affordable homes; improve support for homeless and vulnerable people; and develop communities people are proud of. From these priorities it could be seen that the Strategy was not only relevant to Council housing. The Strategy sets out how these priorities were going to be achieved and how they were to be monitored. It was recognised that there would be changes with the introduction of the ALMO, but responsibility for the Strategy would remain with the Council.

The Business Plan focused on the delivery of repairs and maintenance to Council homes to achieve the targets set in the Strategy.

Members were of the view that the Scrutiny Overview Committee had a big role to play in the monitoring of the Strategy and Business Plan and there was a need to put in place regular reporting arrangements.

The Committee was informed that once the Strategy had Council approval an executive summary would be provided to households.

A Member expressed concern that no mention had been made of seeking specific Government funding for improvement for particular activities that was available before a 2 star rating had been achieved. Officers undertook to investigate this matter.

It was RESOLVED :-

1. That Council be informed that the Scrutiny Overview Committee concur with the decisions of the Executive in recommending approval to the Housing Strategy and Business Plan.

2. That officers be requested to submit quarterly monitoring reports to the Scrutiny Overview Committee concerning the implementation of the Strategy and Business Plan.

3. That it be noted that there might be specific Government funding to assist with improvements to particular areas of the service even though a 2 star rating was yet to be achieved and it was expected that officers would investigate these options.”