

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 31 MAY 2012
title: HOUSING FORUM FEEDBACK
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: RACHAEL STOTT

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of the feedback received from the Housing Forum held on 16 May 2012 in the Council Chamber.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – To match the supply of homes in our area with the identified housing need.
- Community Objectives – None.
- Corporate Priorities – None.
- Other Considerations – None.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Housing Forum is held twice a year and this meeting was held on 16 May 2012 in the Council Chamber. The agenda for the Forum is attached at Appendix 1.

2.2 The session was well attended with 38 representatives and registered providers, support providers, Homes and Communities Agency, planning agents, Health and Housing Members and many other partner agencies.

2.3 All the presentations were informative and the final session gave attendees the opportunity to suggest future priorities for the 2012-2015 delivery plan for the Strategic Housing Service.

2.4 The consultation exercise requested that aims and objectives were set under the following three headings. The following feedback was received:

Addressing Housing Needs in the Borough

Consider an 'assisted house purchasing scheme' to first time buyers. Investigate the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme which is operating across the North West.

Develop a purchase and repair scheme to enable delivery of affordable units with existing stock. Respond to the Welfare Reform and its implications – look to develop one bed units.

Support the formation of Community Land Trusts and the opportunities available for communities to play a role in affordable housing delivery.

Review the current evidence base of need for affordable housing delivery currently the SHMA and Housing Needs Surveys. Investigate alternative evidence collation.

Agree a policy regarding the use of condition in place of Section 106 Agreements in order to secure grant assistance for affordable housing.

Investigate the housing options available to young people and how we can increase provision and choice for under 35 year olds.

Continue to market/publicise completion of all affordable schemes and the positive effects.

Energy Efficiency.

Working partnership with the Health Working Group and identify the health benefits of reducing fuel poverty.

Deliver education sessions to improve the benefits of a reduction in energy use overall. General utility bill, tariff, energy efficiency advice.

Monitor the Green Deal and its delivery. Provide information for households on its implications.

Housing Needs service/supported housing.

Address the length of stay in temporary accommodation work to increase the options available to move on from temporary accommodation.

Investigate and promote 'sharing housing' as an option.

Flexibility is important within new schemes – one bed units, conversions, 2 into 1 and lodgers all to be considered.

Maximise the current SP services in the borough and ensure hours of SP funding are not lost.

Work in partnership with the Commissioning Managers to ensure the Council are aware of specialist housing needs within the borough.

Utilise the charity/church groups within the borough and encourage partnership working to support delivery.

Elderly continue to be a priority client group and the tenure options need to be further investigated.

- 2.5 This information will be worked up into a delivery plan which will be presented to the Strategic Housing Working Group and then brought back to the next Health and Housing

Committee to be agreed by Members as the action plan for 2012-2015 for the strategic housing service.

Should Members wish to receive a copy of the presentations delivered at the Housing Forum, then please contact me and I will forward them on.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – No implications identified.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – No implications identified.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – No implications identified.
- Equality & Diversity – No implications identified.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 That Committee acknowledge the contents of the report.

MARSHAL SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

RACHAEL STOTT
HOUSING STRATEGY OFFICER

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

For further information please ask for Rachael Stott, extension 4567.

H&H/310512/RS/EL

HOUSING FORUM

WEDNESDAY 16TH MAY 2012
9.45AM (10.00AM START) – 1.00PM

Venue – Ribble Valley Borough Council, Council Chambers
Church Walk, Clitheroe BB7 2RA

AGENDA

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|---------|--|
| 10am | Welcome Stuart Hirst, Chair of Health & Housing |
| 10.10am | Overview of Strategic Housing Service |
| 10.30am | Green Deal – how it will operate |
| 10.50am | HCA-Localism Act and the implication for housing |
| 11.15am | BREAK – TEA/COFFEE |
| 11.30am | Helen Spencer, GPHA – securing HCA grant |
| 11.50am | Housing Strategy 2012 – 2015 deciding our priorities |
| 12.30 | Close & Lunch |