

8th January 2015		ITEM: 8
Health and Wellbeing Board		
Thurrock Housing Strategy		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Not applicable	
Report of: Barbara Brownlee – Director of Housing		
Accountable Head of Service: Not applicable		
Accountable Director: Barbara Brownlee – Director of Housing		

Executive Summary

A new Housing Strategy is currently being developed which will set out the vision and direction for housing over the next five years. The aim is to create an engaging and aspirational document for both internal and external stakeholders.

A vision, core priorities and objectives have been developed which we are currently consulting on to ensure the Housing Strategy is reflective of the needs of the Council and demonstrates a joined up approach.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 To consider the proposed vision, core priorities and objectives for the Housing Strategy and ensure it aligns with the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 A new Housing Strategy is currently being developed. The aim is to create a concise and aspirational document which is supported by a clear evidence base and the resources of the HRA Business Plan, encompassing all areas of housing.

2.2 The Strategy will define the inherent relationship with health and wellbeing and support Thurrock Council's Corporate Plan and five strategic priorities.

2.3 The Housing Strategy will set out the objectives for the next five years (2015 – 2020) with a longer term vision to 2044 in line with our 30 year HRA Business Plan.

2.4 Research is currently being undertaken to ensure there is an evidenced base approach to the development of the Strategy. A full list of the evidence being

collected is enclosed in Appendix 1. In addition, a housing needs survey has been commissioned.

- 2.5 It is proposed that we will produce annual updates on progress against the Strategy, setting ourselves ambitious targets to enhance and increase housing across all tenures over the next five years.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 Appendix 1 presents the proposed vision, core priorities and objectives for the Housing Strategy for consideration.
- 3.2 The vision has been developed following internal consultation to ensure it encompasses all the key areas for housing.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

- 4.1 It is essential the Housing Strategy clearly defines the relationship between health and housing. To this end, we seek the views of the Health and Wellbeing Board on the proposed vision and priorities to ensure this is reflected.
- 4.2 It is equally important that it supports the borough ambitious growth plan, delivering employment opportunities and subsequently improving health and wellbeing outcomes.

5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 To ensure a joined up approach which reflects the needs of our tenants, residents, members and other key stakeholders, the Strategy is being developed in consultation with other departments within the Council, including planning and regeneration together with engagement with a variety of partners.
- 5.2 To date the consultation has primarily been internal with a view to engaging with external stakeholders in the New Year including Registered Providers, Community Safety Partnership and Thurrock Coalition. Residents on the Excellence Panel have also been presented with the proposed vision and further engagement will take place once the full Strategy has been drafted.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 6.1 The enclosed appendix demonstrates the links between the Housing Strategy and the five Corporate Priorities.
- 6.2 It is envisaged that the Housing Strategy will clearly highlight the strategic direction of the department to maximise outcomes for the community and continue to improve performance.

7. Appendices to the report

- Thurrock Council Housing Strategy: Vision and Core Priorities

Report Author:

Barbara Brownlee – Director of Housing