

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (SERVICE DELIVERY
AND RESOURCES)**

4 JULY 2006

CABINET

20 JULY 2006

COUNCIL

27 SEPTEMBER 2006

**HOUSING STRATEGY 2006-11
(Report by the Head of Housing Services)**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the Housing Strategy 2006-11 and supporting Empty Homes Strategy 2006-11 and Homelessness Strategy 2006-08 before they are submitted to Government Office for the Eastern Region (GO-East).

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to produce a Housing Strategy. This should be a forward looking document which takes account of the housing conditions in the district and sets out a plan of action for how the local authority and its partners will intervene to balance need and supply and improve people's housing and community facilities.

- 2.2 The Government has set a 'fit for purpose' standard which the Strategy will be judged against by GO-East. As the Strategy for 2003-7 reached the 'fit for purpose' standard, the Council has not been required to produce an annual Strategy. The Council now has to revise the Strategy every three to five years, the agreed date for submission being end of September 2006.

- 2.3 Along with the main Housing Strategy 2006 - 11, there are a range of supporting Strategies. Together, these make up the Council's submission:

- Reading the Housing Market 2006
- BME Housing Strategy 2006-11
- Homelessness Strategy 2006-08
- Homelessness Review 2003
- Empty Homes Strategy 2006-11
- Older People's Housing Health and Social Care Strategy, 2006-11
- Young Persons Housing Strategy 2005-2010

- 2.4 The Housing Strategy 2006-11, Empty Homes Strategy 2006-11 and Homelessness Strategy 2006-08 were the subject of consultation during May 2006. Comments were invited from partners, Councillors, Parish Councils and the Strategy was posted on the web site and in public places for the public to consider. Only 24 responses were received. Of these, 100% agreed that the priorities in the Strategies were correct for Huntingdonshire. These documents have been amended to take account of feedback, where appropriate.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The Housing Strategy 2006-11, Empty Homes Strategy 2006-11 and Homelessness Strategy 2006-08 need to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny and approved by Cabinet and Council before being submitted to GO-East.

4. RECOMMENDATION

That the Housing Strategy 2006-11, Empty Homes Strategy 2006-11 and Homelessness Strategy 2006-08 be approved for submission to GO-East in September 2006.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- ODPM, Housing Strategies: Guidance and Fit For Purpose Criteria
- Huntingdonshire Housing Strategy 2003-07
- Responses to External Consultation

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