

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STRATEGIC HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD**

**22 February 2010**

**Joint Report of Director of Health and Housing and Cabinet Member for Housing**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)**

**1 WEST KENT HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY ACTION PLAN: JULY 2010 - JUNE 2011**

**Summary**

**In July 2009 Members approved the timetable for the review of the West Kent Homelessness Strategy and Action Plan. In accordance with that timetable, this report present a draft Homelessness Strategy Action Plan for the period July 2010 to July 2011.**

**1.1 Background**

- 1.1.1 The *West Kent Homelessness Strategy: Towards 2010* was developed in partnership with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Sevenoaks District Council, and was endorsed for adoption by members in July 2007.
- 1.1.2 The strategy was developed to cover a three-year period, and so it would therefore have been due for a full review in July 2010. Members will recall however that in July 2009 approval was given to deferring the review for one year, and proceeding instead with a refresh of the action plan. One of the main advantages of this approach will be to align West Kent with the other Kent authorities that produced three year strategies from July 2008.

**1.2 Next Steps**

- 1.2.1 The draft action plan will be the subject of consultation with key partners and stakeholders. It will also be made available on the Council's web site during this period. Thereafter the action plan will be finalised, and submitted to Members for approval at the meeting of the Strategic Housing Advisory Board on 19 July 2010.

**1.3 Legal Implications**

- 1.3.1 The *Homelessness Act 2002* places a statutory duty on all local authorities to publish a homelessness strategy. This duty is disapplied by the *Local Authorities Plans and Strategies (Disapplication) (England) Order 2005* to local authorities that are rated as excellent. The three West Kent authorities are all rated as

excellent, and as such need not publish a homelessness strategy. However, none consider the absence of a homelessness strategy to represent good practice.

#### **1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.4.1 None immediate and largely within existing resources and approved budgets.

#### **1.5 Risk Assessment**

1.5.1 Failure to update the Homelessness Strategy Action Plan will compromise the Council's ability to effectively tackle homelessness.

#### **1.6 Recommendations**

1.6.1 **CABINET** is **RECOMMENDED** to **ENDORSE** for the purpose of consultation the draft Homelessness Strategy Action Plan which is attached at **[Annex 1]**.

The Director of Health and Housing confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

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Nil

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Cabinet Member for Housing