

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

7 June 2011

Report of the Director of Health and Housing

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 EXTERNAL CONSULTATIONS

Date of reply	Consultation document	Dealt with by
5 May 2011	Homes & Communities Agency - Single HomeBuy Agent Discussion Paper	Chris Knowles

1.1 Homes & Community Agency - Single HomeBuy Agent Discussion Paper

1.1.1 Currently the Homebuy Agent service is provided on a regional basis, with Moat Homes being the Homebuy Agent for the south east. The Homes & Communities Agency's (HCA) discussion paper outlined their thinking on the future of the Homebuy Agent role and how a future service can be designed to provide better value for money and be more locally responsive. The HCA suggest that this can best be achieved through moving from a regional model to the appointment of a single agent for England, and propose to implement this for the 2012-15 period. Through the publication of the paper the HCA hoped to encourage a discussion with partners to shape a future service.

1.1.2 The consultation was aimed primarily at local authorities and housing associations. There was not a formal consultation process connected to the ideas put forward by the HCA, the Paper simply asked for any comments to be returned to them by 6 May 2011.

1.1.3 The Council's response was submitted to HCA on 5 May. A copy will be found at **[Annex 1]**.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 None arising from this report.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 None arising from this report.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 None arising from this report

Background papers:

contact: Chris Knowles

Nil

John Batty
Director of Health and Housing