

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

20 February 2012

**Joint Report of the 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 HOUSING STRATEGY 2012

Summary

**This report sets out proposed timescales for the review of the housing
strategy and action plan.**

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The 2009-2012 Housing Strategy would have been due for a review in time for the early part of 2012-13.

1.1.2 In November 2011 the Board approved a proposal to defer the review, recognising that it would be imprudent to develop a new strategy in advance of the enactment of the Localism Bill, the publication of the Government's national housing strategy and also until the implications of forthcoming welfare reform were better understood.

1.1.3 The Board were advised that a clearer set of timescales for the review would be presented to the next meeting, in February 2012.

1.2 Review of the Housing Strategy

1.2.1 The new housing strategy will be developed in the same format as the existing version, i.e. brief and succinct, with a separate, detailed action plan which will be reviewed annually.

1.2.2 Unlike the current housing strategy which sits within the Sustainable Community Strategy, it will be a separate document.

1.2.3 The Strategy will be reviewed in accordance with the following timescale:

- 28 May 2012 – draft strategy and action plan to Strategic Housing Advisory Board for approval to commence consultation with key partners and stakeholders;

- June/July 2012 – consultation period. The draft strategy and action plan will be available on the Council's web site during this period;
- 10 October 2012 – draft strategy and action plan to Cabinet for approval; and
- 6 November 2012 – draft strategy and action plan to Council for approval.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 The housing strategy is a statutory requirement under section 7 of the *Local Government Act 2003*.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 None arising from this report.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 Failure to develop an effective and forward-looking housing strategy and action plan will compromise the Council's ability to meet identified housing need, and to attract the funding necessary for that purpose.

1.6 Equality Impact Assessment

1.6.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.7 Recommendation

1.7.1 Cabinet is **RECOMMENDED** to **APPROVE** the timetable for the review of the Housing Strategy and Action Plan (section 1.2).

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:

contact: Janet Walton

Nil

John Batty
Director of Health and Housing

Councillor Jean Atkinson
Cabinet Member for Housing

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against	No	The current Housing Strategy is unchanged at this point in time. When reviewed, it will be subject to a

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
different groups in the community?		full equality impact assessment.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	No	See comment above.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.