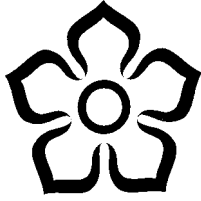


DECISION STATUS

Key Decision	No
Reason	Part of Budget and Policy Framework
Appeared in Forward Plan	No
Executive or Council Decision	Council



Leicester
City Council

**HOUSING SCRUTINY
CABINET**

**25TH JULY 2002
29TH JULY 2002**

THE HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME STRATEGY – 2002 UPDATE

Report of the Director of Housing

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Report

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the 2002 update of the HIP Strategy 2001-06 originally compiled last year. Submission of the update is required to be with GOEM by 31st July 2002.
- 1.2 Last year's submission set out a comprehensive picture of all of the relevant strategic issues facing Housing in the City anticipated to have a 'life-span' of up to 5 years. In the absence of radical change this picture should largely remain the same over this period and it is for this reason that periodic updates only are necessary. This approach is in line with the recent Government guidance which says that once an authority has a strategy that is deemed 'fit for purpose' then subsequent submissions should be confined to reporting on changes and progress on achievements made against the established strategy.
- 1.3 Having set the scene describing all the current housing and related issues the 2001-06 document identified strategic priorities in terms of meeting housing need and demand in the City. These were categorised into six themes;

LCC Core (Landlord and Strategic) Roles

- This theme deals with the two 'separate' roles that the Council has in terms of managing and maintaining its stock and its role as 'strategic enabler' working with partner organisations and agencies to meet identified needs and priorities across the social housing spectrum

Addressing Homelessness

- This theme is about dealing with homelessness in its widest sense and the conditions that give rise to the potential to become homeless.

Sustaining Urban Renewal

- The focus with this theme is improvements to private sector housing stock and surrounding environment through renovation grants, home maintenance advice and assistance and specific adaptations through Disable Facilities Grants.

Supported Housing Initiatives

- This theme covers the meeting of a plethora of housing related support needs and the structures in place to shape and enable these – particularly the developing Supporting People framework and programme. This theme is closely related to the Addressing Homelessness theme above – prevention being a key component of supported housing.

Promoting Affordable Housing

- This theme is about meeting housing need through the development of all kinds of affordable housing across the City chiefly through the Approved Development Programme. A key feature here is the partnership arrangements with RSL organisations set up to deliver against the established priorities.

Community Development

- This theme is about the development of the processes and capacity to engage meaningfully with representatives of the community – tenants and residents. It is about ensuring that the issues identified as being important to the community are decided upon with the community and enabling service provision to be held to account.

- 1.4 The strategy update endorses the existing themes and the majority of priorities stated within them. Out of the 54 original priorities 45 remain unchanged and 'current'. 4 new priorities are added. As stated above the primary consideration in updating the strategy has been the production of a new Housing Needs Survey. For the most part the analysis here has service to reinforce the existing priorities in the Strategy – providing a weight of empirical evidence to support existing approaches. (A more detailed account of the findings and issues raised by the HNS will be the subject of a report to Members in September).
- 1.5 Other key issues considered in the update are; wider community objectives particularly associated with Neighbourhood Renewal and New Deal, resourcing issues around Disabled Facilities Grants, implications for the strategy for housing persons from abroad, rising levels of homelessness and the implications for temporary accommodation, the condition of the Council's housing stock and consideration of the Supporting People programme and its implications.
- 1.6 The update also presents new material on the plans to manage the strategy and its implementation.

- 1.7 The final copy of the strategy update will be available in the Members area from 31st July. The current draft is still the subject of consultation with partner organisations and colleagues across the Council and therefore may be supplemented with further comments and/or clarification.

2. Consultations

Drafts of the strategy update have been widely circulated to

- a) All Departments across the Council
- b) Registered Social Landlords operating in the City Area
- c) Other partners/representative bodies in housing and related services

The purpose of this consultation is to ensure that the strategy represents a recognised picture of housing issues in the City and that the priorities stated are based upon a shared understanding and interpretation of that picture.

3. Aims and Objectives of the Housing Department

The process of producing the strategy is a key process that helps to formulate the aims and objectives of the Housing Department that ultimately contribute towards the overall goal – “to provide a decent home within the reach of every citizen”.

4. Background Papers: Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

HIP Strategy Update 2002

2002 HIP Guidance (DTLR March – June 2002)

Various reports to Housing Scrutiny and Cabinet (July 2001 – June 2002)

Various reports to Housing Directorate (July 2001 to June 2002)

5. Financial legal and other implications

- 5.1 The HIP strategy influences the level of resources that are secured from Central Government.

- 5.2 Other implications are as follows:

Other Implications	Yes/No	Paragraph reference within supporting papers
Equal Opportunity	Yes	Throughout document
Policy	Yes	Throughout document
Sustainable/Environmental	No	
Crime and Disorder	No	
Human Rights Act	No	
Elderly / People on Low income	No	

6. Author of this report

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