

**BUSINESS SUPPORT
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
4 SEPTEMBER 2008
HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Report from: Deborah Upton, Assistant Director (Housing & Corporate Services)

Author: Deborah Upton, Assistant Director (Housing & Corporate Services)

Summary

This report provides an update on the Housing Improvement plan and suggestions for items that members may wish to monitor.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

This recommendations contained in this report are within the budget and policy framework.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 15 July 2008, the Cabinet agreed the improvement plan for the housing service. That improvement plan was brought before Business Support Overview & Scrutiny Committee at its last meeting.
- 2.2 The Committee asked for a further report with a final version of the improvement plan, together with suggested areas for them to monitor. A copy of the plan will be circulated at the meeting, together with progress to date.

3. Suggestions for monitoring

At the previous meeting, members asked that action numbers 47-50 be speeded up as they were important issues that needed addressing. These areas cover houses in multiple occupation, and enforcement. It is therefore suggested that a suitable area for regular monitoring would be:

“48. Set and meet challenging targets to complete the statutory licensing of homes in multiple occupation”

In addition, suggestions for monitoring include:-

“68. Work with private sector to increase the supply of accommodation”

and

“65. Measure the length of time households spend in temporary accommodation and set challenging targets to minimise the length of stay”

4. Financial and legal implications

- 4.1 There are no financial or legal implications to this report. However the implementation of the actions will themselves have legal and financial implications.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. That Members request regular reports to Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee on action numbers 48, 65 and 68 in the housing improvement plan, or such other actions as Members require.

Lead officer contact

Deborah Upton
Assistant Director (Housing & Corporate Services)
01634 332133

Background papers

Strategic Housing Improvement Plan adopted by Cabinet on 15 July 2008