

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 28 AUGUST 2012

REPORT BY REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH,  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

HOUSING STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2012-2015

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

---

**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To present the action plan for the Council's new Housing Strategy 2012 -15 to Community Scrutiny for consideration and comment and recommendation for adoption.

<b><u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR Community Scrutiny: That:</u></b>	
<b>(A)</b>	<b>Community Scrutiny supports the Housing Strategy 2012-15 action plan and recommends it to the Executive for adoption alongside the main Strategy document</b>
<b>(B)</b>	<b>Community Scrutiny receives an annual report on the progress of the action plan.</b>

1.0 Background

1.1 The Housing Strategy for East Herts and associated action plan is the high level strategic document that sets the direction for housing within the district from 2012-15 whilst having regard to longer term housing challenges and wider housing agendas.

1.2 The Strategic Housing Service, with the assistance of Planning Policy and Private Sector Housing, has drafted a Housing Strategy and action plan for the period from 2012 to 2015. The Housing Strategy was considered by Community Scrutiny on 28 February 2012 and has been subject to consultation by our external partners and stakeholders.

## 2.0 Report

2.1 The Strategic Housing Service with assistance from Planning Policy and Private Sector Housing has drafted the next Housing Strategy and associated action plan for the period 2012-2015 for East Hertfordshire. The Strategy is for a three year period but will be reviewed annually by Community Scrutiny and by the Council's Housing Forum. The annual review will be an opportunity to measure progress being made on the actions and identify new targets or actions following best practice or new legal requirements that can be included for following years.

2.2 The Housing Strategy 2012-2015 was presented and discussed at the Community Scrutiny meeting of 28 February 2012. Following this meeting the process of external consultation with partners and stakeholders began with a Housing Forum event on 7 March 2012 which was chaired by Councillor Haysey. The document was then put onto the Council's website for wider consultation for 6 weeks.

2.3 Three comments were received by external stakeholders and a copy of the consultation comments is included at **Essential Reference paper 'B'**.

2.4 Following the 6 week consultation the Housing Strategy document was updated and an action plan was developed by the Housing, Planning Policy and Private Sector Housing Services. The action plan structure follows the 3 Housing Strategic Challenges identified in the Housing Strategy and agreed at Community Scrutiny at their meeting on 25 January 2011:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Challenge 1. | Maximise the delivery of a range of new affordable homes, whilst ensuring the best use of existing housing |
| Challenge 2. | Meeting the needs of a growing elderly population  |
| Challenge 3. | Meeting the needs of vulnerable people and stronger communities  |

2.5 A copy of the proposed Action Plan is attached at **Essential Reference Paper 'C'**.

## 3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Councillor Linda Haysey, Executive Member for Health Housing and Community Support  
[Linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Simon Drinkwater, Director of Neighbourhood Services - Ext No 1405  
[Simon.drinkwater@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.drinkwater@eastherts.gov.uk)

Claire Bennett, Manager Housing Services – Ext No 1603  
[Claire.bennett@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.bennett@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Claire Bennett, Manager Housing Services – Ext No 1603  
[Claire.bennett@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.bennett@eastherts.gov.uk)