



## **BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

### **DELEGATED DECISION RECORD**

This records a key or other decision taken by an Executive Member or the Cabinet in accordance with the Council's scheme of Delegations.

Unless the Leader and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission certify that the matter is so urgent that the normal five-day scrutiny delay on action should not apply, then this decision will come into force and may then be implemented on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the decision, unless called in under the call-in procedures as set out in Section D of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

<b>Portfolio/Cabinet</b>	Cabinet
<b>Report Title (&amp; Reference No.)</b>	Financial Inclusion Strategy
<b>Summary Background</b>	Members were invited to consider and agree the Financial Inclusion Strategy for Breckland and recommend it to Council for approval.
<b>Author/Contact Officer</b>	Darryl Smith, Principal Housing Officer (Strategy and Enabling) (darryl.smith@breckland.gov.uk)
<b>Ward(s) Affected</b>	All Wards;
<b>Urgent?</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes Policy or Strategy
<b>In Forward Plan?</b>	Yes
<b>Date Decision Taken</b>	Tuesday, 12 May 2009
<b>Date Published</b>	Thursday, 14 May 2009
<b>Call-In Expiry</b>	N/A
<b>Exempt Information?</b>	No
<b>Decision (Action Agreed)</b>	<b><u>RECOMMEND</u></b> to Council that the Financial Inclusion Strategy and associated action plan be adopted.
<b>Reasons(s)</b>	This would be the first Financial Inclusion Strategy in Norfolk. It aimed to build strong partnerships to deliver services to a cross section of the community. Financial hardship did not just affect social housing tenants it impacted on the young, the old, homeowners, those in work as well as those out of work.

	<p>The Strategy was a positive reaction from the Strategic Housing team on the impact to their service from those experiencing financial hardship. Having a Strategy in place would enable the Housing team to have a platform to make funding bids to secure resources where actions needed to be delivered outside of the budget constraints.</p>
<p><b>Options</b></p>	<p><u>Option 1</u></p> <p>To agree to adopt the Strategy for financial inclusion would demonstrate the Councils priority to improve the quality of life of residents currently facing severe hardship due to unemployment, reduction in income and loss of their homes. The current financial climate had touched every resident in some way. This Strategy enabled an opportunity to strengthen partnerships to deliver appropriate services to Breckland's residents.</p> <p><u>Option 2</u></p> <p>Not to agree to adopt the Strategy would prevent a coordinated planned approach to service delivery for those requiring financial support. It would undermine the partnerships that have been developed and demonstrate to residents that the Council did not recognise the difficulties that they might be facing in the current climate.</p>
<p><b>Further Information</b></p>	<p>A13_ financial Inclusion report</p> <p>A13_ financial inclusion strategy and action plan 2 (final)</p>