

## **BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

### **Policy Review Panel 3 – 10 July 2007**

#### **REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS MANAGER; COMMERCIAL & COMMUNITY (Author: POLLY KANE HOMELESSNESS (STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT) OFFICER and ANITA BRENNAN STRATEGIC HOUSING MANAGER)**

#### **HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY REVIEW ACTION PLAN – ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT**

**Summary: Policy Review Panel are requested to approve the annual review of the Homelessness Strategy Review action plan.**

### **1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Council has a statutory duty to produce a Homelessness Strategy under the Homelessness Act 2002.
- 1.2 The Homelessness Act 2002 also requires local authorities to take a more comprehensive approach to tackling homelessness, and the Audit Commission inspection of the Housing Service in May 2005 re-emphasised this message and identified a need for the Council to significantly improve its strategic approach to the provision of homelessness services in the district.
- 1.3 The Homelessness Strategy Review, which replaced the 2003 Homelessness Strategy, was adopted by the Council in August 2006.
- 1.4 In order to ensure the Homelessness Strategy Review action plan is up-to-date and relevant to current Government guidance and Council priorities and is targeted towards producing an efficient, effective and customer-focussed service an annual review has been undertaken.
- 1.5 In consultation with the Council's multi-agency Homelessness Prevention Forum – a panel of over 40 key stakeholder agencies across the statutory and voluntary sectors including RSLs, a draft Action Plan for 2007/08 has been produced for the Panel's consideration.

### **2. KEY DECISION**

- 2.1 This is not a key decision

### **3. COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

- 3.1 The matter raised in this report falls within the following Council priorities:
  - A safe and healthy environment
  - A well planned place to live which encourages vibrant communities
  - A prosperous place to live and work

### **4. DELIVERY OF HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY REVIEW ACTION PLAN**

- 4.1 The recommendations contained in the Homelessness Strategy Review action plan annual review will feed into and align with the Strategic Housing Service Team Plan and Annual Delivery Plan targets for 2007/08 and form the basis for the development and improvement of the Housing Advice & Homelessness Service

### **5. OPTIONS AVAILABLE**

- 5.1 To approve the annual review of the Homelessness Strategy Review action plan
- 5.2 To not approve the annual review of the Homelessness Strategy Review action plan

**6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Homelessness Strategy Review action plan identifies areas for improvement across the Housing Advice & Homelessness Service and details action to be taken on specific projects and initiatives.

**7. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

7.1 To approve the annual review of the Homelessness Strategy Review action plan

*Appendices:*

**Homelessness Strategy Review Action Plan Annual Review  
Homelessness Strategy Review Action Plan 06/07**