

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Committee Report

Public

Date of Meeting:

17th January 2002

Title: SCOPING THE STRATEGIC APPROACH TO HOUSING BEST
VALUE REVIEW

Report of: Director of Housing

Report reference: H010/02

Summary:

The attached report details the current position regarding the Best Value Review of the Strategic approach to Housing and some background for consideration about how it could be placed within the Council post LSVT.

Recommendations:

That Members agree with the current direction being given to consultants HACAS Chapman Hendy in carrying out a Best Value Review of the Strategic approach to Housing.

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H010/02

To the Chair and Members of the

Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee

17th January 2002

Strategic Approach to Housing Best Value Review

1. Background

1. As part of the Best Value regime the Council has moved towards a thematic approach to reviews. This review forms a part of the programme of reviews for 2001/02.
 2. The Council took the decision to extend the work of the Consultants working on the LSVT process to include this review. HACAS Chapman Hendy are currently working on the Strategic Housing Approach in the following ways:-
 - a. Best Value Review of the Strategic approach to Housing.
 - b. A review involving all functions in this area including those outside of the Housing Department.
 - c. To establish a Structure for delivering a strategic approach to housing as is required by Central Government post LSVT.
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1. The City Council is viewed by other districts in the County and others as 'the Capital' of Cumbria. This is reflected in many ways including the current review of the Structure Plan which is weighting development towards Carlisle district. There is a great deal of work done by City Council officers which takes a county approach and has resulted in funding being secured for Carlisle as well as the other districts, particularly the other 3 districts in the North of the County.
 2. Allerdale District Council and Eden District Council are both two years or more past the stage of transferring their entire housing stock. Both authorities are finding shortfalls in the residual staff structures relating to the Housing Strategy role.
 3. We are in a fortunate position as the DTLR for the second year running have rated our Housing Strategy Submission for 2002/03 as above average, only one other non metropolitan authority in the North West, Burnley, boasts this position.

1. Current Position

1. HACAS Chapman Hendy have agreed an extension in their contract to include this review.
 2. They have been provided with a range of documents and within the scoping exercise provided details of all the functions and respective posts and personnel involved.
 3. The areas being reviewed are:-
 - a. Enabling and Strategic roles;
 - b. Hostel accommodation;
 - c. Homelessness function;
 - d. Advice;
 - e. Private Sector – Grants, Houses in Multiple Occupation, Group repair, advice, Fuel Poverty and Energy efficiency.
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1. HACAS Chapman Hendy have scheduled interviews with key personnel from the above areas for the 15th and 16th January 2002.
 2. The expected date for completion of the reviews is 18th February 2002.

1. Conclusion and Recommendations

1. Under the current approach to carrying out the review we are on target to achieve completion in time for integration into the main review of the Council's structure.
2. Members are asked to note the current direction provided to consultants HACAS Chapman Hendy in carrying out the review and suggest any variations

if necessary.

T. Bramley

Director of Housing