

Work Plan for Sub Regional Housing Strategy

Date of meeting: 11th Jan 2008

Item number on agenda: Item 6.

Purpose of report

To develop previous discussions on timing for sub-regional housing strategy, to suggest a work-plan and a timetable for development and publication in 2008.

Decision / Action

Does CRHB agree the timetable set out?

Are there any links or specific issues CRHB would like to see included specifically?

Are there any additional links to other agendas which need to be incorporated?

Are there any specific views on consultation?

Introduction

In August 2007, CRHB considered a paper outlining the drivers for a new sub-regional housing strategy. The proposal was to devise a new three-year sub regional housing strategy to be effective from **April 2008**, and next one to be published **2011**.

Structure

Want a snappy, accessible document that summarises and signposts, but does not replicate other documents but needs to show the links. In this way supports district colleagues and helps reduce unnecessary replication and effort between districts. Each "topic" section needs to cover:

- Needs - mainly for SHMA, due for acceptance in Spring (March or April CRHB 2008?)
- Resources of all types – money, partnerships, land, projects.
- Vision and priorities – where are we trying to get to by 5/ 10/ 15 years in the future? What national, regional and local targets have been set? (link to LAA/CAA etc).
- Options – are there choices to be made, do we need to set out the options selected, for each area.
- Risks – optional section which tackle major risks if we do not achieve our priorities, links to the new approach to CAAs which is "risk-based" so supports links to the Audit Commission's agenda.
- Action plan – key actions for the sub-region (via champions and task groups), remembering LAs will still have their own action plans and the S-R strategy needs to focus on sub regional working as much as possible.
- Investment priorities and investment plan for the next 3 years minimum. At present our investment priorities are stated in the Regional Housing Investment Programme 2008-11 as:

- Meet the challenge of significant housing growth to create mixed, balanced and sustainable communities across the sub-region while respecting our environmental assets.
- Invest in rural homes to support vibrant, sustainable communities.
- Respond to the diverse and changing needs of our communities including migrant workers, Gypsies and Travellers and hard-to-reach groups.
- Tackle both housing and support issues for people who are most vulnerable.
- Make best use of existing homes and extend housing options by improving housing conditions, reducing risk, updating sheltered housing and bringing empty homes back into use - focusing on those who are vulnerable and live in private housing.
- Prevent and tackle homelessness, help reduce deprivation and improve health and social inclusion.

Guideline contents to achieve around a 30 page strategy.

Section	Outline
Context	What is the sub regional strategy for? Who is it aimed at? Lifecycle and purpose
Partnership and stakeholder involvement	Importance of partnership working, Consultation on sub regional strategy, Link to local strategies and local consultation
Strategic links	National housing strategies and consultations RSS, economic and housing strategies District's LDDs Supporting People strategies in Suffolk and Cambs Sub regional homelessness strategy, local homelessness strategies Sustainable Community Plans, LAAs, change to CAAs, possible MAAs
Defining our housing market(s)	
Economic and demographic context	
Dwelling profile and stock condition	
House prices and trends	Includes hot- & cold-spots in housing market, & affordability
Social rented housing, housing registers, homelessness	
Intermediate tenures including key worker housing	
The private rented and buy-to-let markets	
Overall housing need and demand across the whole market	
Specific housing needs	Including BME; migrant worker issues; Gypsy and Traveller; housing for young and older people, and housing for people with support or specialist needs
Track record of affordable housing delivery in the past	
Current and future supply of all homes and of affordable homes, link to land availability	
How healthy is our market?	
SMART action table	
Investment priorities (from EERA HiP) and investment plan	

Timeline

Action	Date
SHMA finalised	April 2008.
<p>CSHG works with other CRHB sub-groups to create a current a SMART action plan for 2008-11, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CRHB workplan. Actions from HC protocol work. Further research identified in SHMA. LAA targets and any development work on LAAs/MAAs. Sub regional homelessness strategy. Cambs and Suffolk SP strategy actions. Disability Strategy actions. Relevant Housing Growth Fund projects. Delivering our housing trajectories. <p>CSHG divides up suggested sections of strategy and agrees to progress skeleton text for each part.</p>	CSHG April 2008
Skeleton text returns to CSHG to consider.	June 2008
Put into outline format. Any gaps filled by work with other groups / stakeholders.	During June 2008
Draft strategy to CRHB.	July 2008
Districts take strategy to Members for approval and any Partner consultation need is undertaken (views welcome).	July / Aug 2008
Final changes made.	Aug / Sept 2008
Design, layout, printing.	Sept 2008
Launch.	Oct 2008

Workplan

The approach suggested by the Sub Regional Strategic Housing Group (CSHG) is to start from the action plan, and work “backwards” to develop the strategy. In this way, we would create a record of the action we are already doing or planning, and showing how this links to our strategic priorities.

Around each priority area we will need to identify partnerships, financial and other resources which help tackle our housing issues. Risks and options could also be summarised.