



---

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Cabinet
<b>DATE:</b>	23 August 2006
<b>REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Director of Community Services (Dawn Saxby - Executive Officer (Housing Strategy))
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>2006 HOUSING STRATEGY</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	All
<b>FORWARD PLAN REF:</b>	0305/HH107

---

**1. PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 The report presents the draft 2006 Housing Strategy for endorsement by Cabinet.
- 1.2 Due to the length of the document, a library copy will be placed in the Members' room for general reference, whilst individual copies will only be sent to Members of the Cabinet and Chief Officers. If any other Member or officer would like their own copy of the draft they should contact the report author.
- 1.3 Approval of the Housing Strategy is a non-delegated decision under the Council's current constitution and therefore final approval of the strategy must be referred to full Council on 11 October 2006.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Cabinet endorses the draft 2006 Housing Strategy and commends it for approval by Council at its meeting on 11 October 2006.

**3. RECOMMENDED REASONS FOR DECISION**

- 3.1 The Council is required by Housing Act legislation to produce a housing strategy.

**4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED FOR REJECTION**

- 4.1 Not producing a Housing Strategy is not an option as it is a Housing Act requirement.

**5. CONSULTATION, FINANCIAL AND IS&T IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The strategy brings together a range of policies and initiatives which have been the subject of extensive consultation with all stakeholders. Appendix 1 of the Strategy lists those groups and agencies which have been involved in consultation around elements of the strategy.
- 5.2 In addition, the priorities in the draft strategy have been considered and endorsed by the Community Services Scrutiny Commission and at a special meeting of the Tenants Advisory Forum.
- 5.3 There are no financial implications arising directly as a consequence of this report.
- 5.4 There are no IS&T implications arising directly as a consequence of this report.

## 6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Housing Act legislation requires all local authorities to produce a housing strategy, which is assessed against the “Fit for Purpose” criteria laid down by Government. Achieving the “Fit for Purpose” standard is not only a requirement of the legislation, but is a material consideration for Comprehensive Performance Assessment.
- 6.2 Officers have been liaising closely with Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber during production of the document, with earlier drafts submitted for informal assessment and amended according to the comments received. Informal indications are therefore that the draft document will meet the “Fit for Purpose” standard.
- 6.3 Government Office has indicated that it will not be in a position to formally complete a Fit For Purpose assessment until week commencing 11 September 2006.
- 6.4 Should any minor amendments be required to the document after the assessment is complete, they will be brought to the attention of the Cabinet Member for Housing. In the unlikely event of any significant amendments being required, these will be highlighted in a covering report to Council on 11 October 2006.

**OFFICER CONTACT:** Please contact Dawn Saxby (Executive Officer – Housing Strategy), if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at Sspringfield House, Kings Rd, Harrogate, HG1 5NX, by telephone on 01423 556851, or by Email – dawn.saxby@harrogate.gov.uk.

## SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT / POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

		Implications are		
		Positive	Neutral	Negative
A	Economy	✓		
B	Environment	✓		
C	Social Equity			
i)	General	✓		
ii)	Customer Care / People with Disabilities	✓		
iii)	Health Implications	✓		

D	Crime and Disorder Implications	✓		
---	---------------------------------	---	--	--

If all comments lie within the shaded areas, the proposal is sustainable.

**KEY WORDS -**