

BRIEFING REPORT – Overview & Scrutiny Policy Committee

Policy/Item	Supported Housing Strategy
Policy Department	Economic Regeneration & Strategic Housing
Responsible Officer	Gary Parsons – Housing Research & Strategy Officer
Head of Service	Jon Sharples
Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Promoting Rossendale
Date	30th July 2007
Brief Description	As part of the Housing Strategy Action Plan for the period 2005-2008 it was highlighted that the Council needed to produce a Supported Housing Strategy that would identify the needs of vulnerable groups within Rossendale and attempt to meet these needs through the Strategies Action Plan. A further important reason for this Strategy is to create a more informed link between Rossendale Borough Council and the County's Supporting People programme. It is envisaged that a Strategy at a local level will help link to the County Strategy on Supporting People and provide clearer understanding of need and matching of funding to help meet that need.
Outcome	The outcome is for the Council to have a clearer understanding of what the needs are of various vulnerable groups within Rossendale that need some form of support and to use this knowledge to target resources more effectively and efficiently as part of the overall Housing Strategy programme.
Identify Risk	The only risk to not developing this Strategy is the potential lack of funding for vulnerable groups within Rossendale that will deteriorate unless a co-ordinated and fully evidenced strategy is in place to illustrate the actual level of need and where it is needed geographically in Rossendale.
Conclusion	This Strategy will go along way to bridging the current gap that exists between County level and District level in terms of need and understanding of vulnerable groups within Rossendale and will help target resources more effectively as well as help deliver the current Housing Strategy Action Plan.
Recommendations	1) That Overview & Scrutiny Committee members recommend approval of the Supported Housing Strategy to Cabinet Committee in November 2007.