

Subject:
Pennine Lancashire Housing
Strategy

Status: For Publication

Report to:
Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date:
5th November 2008

Cabinet

3rd December 2008

Report of:
Head of Regeneration

**Portfolio
Holder:** Regeneration & Leisure

Key Decision: Yes

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To comment on and endorse the draft Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Delivering Regeneration across the Borough (Economy, Housing)
- Promoting Rossendale as a cracking place to live and visit (Economy)
- Improving health and well being across the Borough (Health, Housing)

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The strategy provides the linkages between the economic and housing issues facing Pennine Lancashire and provides a robust negotiation tool to attract further investment into the area from Government agencies. Failure to support the principles of the strategy could undermine the effectiveness of this strategy and put at risk the ability of partner authorities to lever in investment.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 Earlier this year officers from each of the six Pennine Lancashire Authorities formed a task group to develop a joint Housing Strategy for Pennine Lancs. This was felt necessary in order to respond effectively to the Regional Housing Strategy and Lancashire Housing Strategy which were in their development stages.
- 4.2 The development of the Pennine Lancashire (PL) Housing Strategy has been supported by PLLACE (Pennine Lancashire Leaders and Chief Executives) and has been co-ordinated by officers from Blackburn with Darwen with input from Elevate.
- 4.3 Over this time further work has been undertaken and advice sought from leading consultants as to how the PL Housing Strategy could better reflect the interdependencies of the economy, skills, education, planning and transport infrastructure identified in the context of a wider strategic framework. It is also necessary to provide strong linkages with the PL Multi Area Agreement and thereby produce a more integrated strategy document.
- 4.4 This is reflected in the current draft which has been supported by PLLACE and is attached.
- 4.5 The current draft details the vision, context, background, baseline and funding issues for housing in PL. There also some issues yet to be added including rural housing issues and potentially a housing Multi Area Agreement.
- 4.6 The document identifies 12 policy actions covering the full range of housing issues but does not contain specific details.
- 4.7 These details are to be contained within 3 delivery plans based upon the 3 key themes:
Quantity;
Quality
People
- 4.8 Officers from Pendle, Hyndburn and Rossendale have been assigned to lead on the 3 key themes. The Head of Regeneration for Rossendale will lead on the development of the People delivery plan. Lead officers have been asked to identify a team of officers from across PL who can assist with the development of these plans with the aim of completing them January 2009.
- 4.9 It is envisaged that the Regional Housing Strategy will be finalised in January 2009 and therefore the aim is to finalise the PL Housing Strategy within the same timescale.

- 4.10 A series of events are being scheduled to ensure Chief Officers and Members have the opportunity to comment on the draft strategy and this report is the first stage in this process.
- 4.11 Other events include and progress report to be considered by PLLACE in November 2008 and a Scenario Planning workshop event with Leaders, Members, Chief Executives and key Partner stakeholders on evening of 18th November 2008 (to be confirmed).
- 4.12 The final version of PL Housing Strategy will be sent out 22nd December 2008 to engage in local authority and stakeholder approval processes till the end of January 2009.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 There are no immediate or direct financial implications, for the Council, arising from the report.

6. MONITORING OFFICER

- 6.1 No comments.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 7.1 No HR implications.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy provides a robust evidence base on which to attract investment from the newly formed Homes and Communities Agency, other funding bodies and the private sector.
- 8.2 It provides the necessary linkages between the economy and housing and supports the key priorities within the Pennine Lancashire Multi Area Agreement.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 That the draft Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy be endorsed.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required Yes

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached Yes

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required Yes

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Draft Pennine Lancashire Housing Strategy	Attached