

Item	SHSP Draft Housing Strategy 2010 – 2011
Date	14 June 2010
Summary of progress	<p>Background</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under the Local Government Act 2003, all local authorities are required to produce a Housing Strategy statement which reviews housing related issues in a local authority's area, sets out its housing objectives and establishes priorities for action. 2. The statutory guidance "Creating Strong, Safe, and Prosperous Communities" published by Communities and Local Government in July 2008, reaffirms that housing is at the heart of place shaping and encourages local authorities to take full and proper account of housing as part of the strategic vision for the area. The document also makes specific reference to the future of housing strategies and states that: <i>"Refreshed housing strategies should;</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>fully reflect the wider vision of the authority and its partners</i> • <i>reflect a clear and evidenced approach</i> • <i>provide a strong focus on how partners will deliver their commitments, including on the infrastructure needed to support housing growth"</i> <p>Previous Housing Strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. In 2005, the Council's previous Housing Strategy was assessed as being "fit for purpose" by the Government Office for the South West (GO-SW). The 'Fit for Purpose' assessment was fairly prescriptive but the Government has moved away from this approach. Local authorities now have more freedom to decide how they will deliver their strategic housing role. There is therefore no longer a requirement for strategies to be assessed by Government Offices. 4. The previous strategy was for the period 2005 -2010 so a new strategy statement is now due. <p>New Interim Housing Strategy 2010/11</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Housing strategies typically set out a plan for a period of 3 to 5 years. This strategy is a 1 year interim document and sets out our plans for housing for 2010/11. This interim approach reflects the new shared Housing Service arrangement with West Devon Borough Council. This joined up approach between the two authorities will lead to the development of a new joint Housing Strategy from 2011 onward. 6. The vision, objectives and priorities of the interim strategy reflect

	<p>the specific local issues in the South Hams but also align with national and regional strategy and policy. The strategy has 3 core objectives as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1: Tackling affordability and meeting housing need • Objective 2: Improving housing options • Objective 3: Improving the quality and use of our housing stock <p>7. In order to deliver against these, each objective has a number of priorities and specific actions which will be completed during 2010/11. To reduce the level of paper production the Strategy has not been appended to this report, but is available by http://www.southhams.gov.uk/administration/committee_agendas/community_pdg/15Apr10/item5_app.pdf</p> <p>8. As a delivery plan for the South Hams Sustainable Community Strategy (CS), the Action Plan will also be monitored through the Community Strategy Housing Sub-Group. The sub group meets on a quarterly basis and consists of key Council officers from across the Council. Partners are welcome to send representatives to these meetings.</p> <p>Consultation</p> <p>9. Consultation on the draft strategy is a key requirement to ensure we fully reflect the needs and ambitions of our communities and delivery partners. As such we will be undertaking consultation with a range of key partners and stakeholders including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Hams Local Strategic Partnership (hence the item on the agenda) • Devon Strategic Housing Group • Parish Councils/ Local communities • RSL Partners. • Devon Private Sector Housing Group <p>10. During 2010 we will begin to develop a longer term joint housing strategy with West Devon Borough Council. As part of this process we will be undertaking a very detailed consultation with the widest possible group of stakeholders.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>11. The Housing Strategy reflects the range off issues facing our communities and provides a clear set of objectives and priorities for action over the next year.</p> <p>Background Documents: Draft Interim Housing Strategy – available on the Council's website.</p>
Current / Shared Issues	The Partners' particular attention is drawn to paragraph 2 of the report in relation to cross agency roles.
SHSP Action recommended	That Partners submit comments to the Council on the DRAFT Interim Housing Strategy.