

Scrutiny Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2009

## 10. Strategic Housing Inspection Improvement plan

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### Purpose of the Report

This report outlines the purpose and function of the Strategic Housing Inspection Improvement Plan and enables members to monitor its evolution.

At the Scrutiny Committee meeting in April 2009, members considered the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter 2007/08 and agreed that the Scrutiny Committee would monitor progress against the Housing Improvement Plan.

### Action Required

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- (1) Look at the Strategic Housing Inspection Improvement Plan to monitor progress against targets and consider if a report is required to provide further clarification or detail on any particular aspects.
- (2) Look at the output/outcomes from the improvement plan against the weaknesses identified by the Audit Commission and consider if a report is required to provide further clarification or detail regarding a specific matter.
- (3) Consider if any common issues repeatedly raised by the community are not being addressed through the Housing Improvement Plan and need to therefore be brought to the attention of the Strategic Housing Service.

### What is the Strategic Housing Inspection Improvement plan?

During 2008 the Audit Commission assessed Strategic Housing services as 'fair' (one star) with uncertain prospects for improvement. In response to the assessment a Strategic Housing Services Improvement Board was formed and the improvement plan was developed to address the weaknesses identified by the inspection. The Board meet every month to take the improvement plan forward and monitor progress.

The plan is a task list, detailing what needs to be achieved, referred to as the Milestone what the output and outcome will be on achieving the task with set target dates. The tasks are colour coded to indicate if the task is on track to meet its target date. A plan as at March 2009 and July 2009 is attached to this report at Appendix A. Looking across the reports you can identify tasks that have progressed, have fallen behind and have been completed by using the colour code that is explained at the end of the plan. There are comments on the plan that can provide further information, (ON HOLD) is used where the responsibility of the task is not completely within South Somerset District Council control and further information or a decision is being sought.

The Inspection of Strategic Housing services section of the Annual Audit and Inspection letter 2007/08 is attached at Appendix B and refers to areas of weakness within the Strategic Housing Service, these should be included in the plan and be on target or successfully completed. If a task has been completed the output/outcomes will show

what has been achieved and should evidence the improvements that have been made since the Improvement Plan was introduced, sample outcomes are attached at Appendix C.

The Scrutiny Manager will provide further explanation of the Strategic Housing Inspection Improvement plan with examples at the meeting.

**Background Papers:**      *Scrutiny Committee minutes April 2009*  
   *Strategic Housing Inspection Improvement Plan*

**Appendices**

Appendix A - Detailed action plan as at March 2009

Detailed Inspection plan as at July 2009

Appendix B - Audit Inspection letter

Appendix C - Outcome evidence

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