

Report to: Community Protection Panel

Date: 16 March 2009

Subject: Consultation Process for the Housing Strategy Issues Paper

Report of: Executive Director of Environmental Services

Contact officer: Peter Layland 01942 828983

Purpose / summary: To advise members of the consultation process being used for the Housing Strategy Issues paper

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: This report is for information only

Recommendation / decision: To note the report and make any comments to feed into the consultation process.

This report does not involve a key decision

Risks / Implications:

Financial:	None
Staffing:	None
Policy:	Housing Strategy
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	
Wards affected:	All

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

No

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

No

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?

N/A

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?

N/A

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?

N/A

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only :

Categorisation of the report:	X
Discussion leading to a decision	
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

	X
Discussion	
Decision	
Information	X

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
Comm Prot 16 March 09			

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer M. Kimber

Date 25 February 2009

1. Background

- 1.1 As outlined in earlier reports to panel, the current Housing Strategy has expired and preparation for the development of a new Housing Strategy for the Borough is underway. In an effort to get as many views on the housing issues facing residents of the borough as well as developing a long term housing vision for the borough, a Housing issues paper has been produced. The issues paper is attached at Appendix 1. The full report can be accessed at www.wigan.gov.uk/consult/housingstrategy.

2. Consultation Process

- 2.1 The consultation and process was launched at the Housing Partnership event held on the 3rd February 2009 at Leigh Sports Village. This was attended by 54 delegates consisting of a wide range of stakeholders including representatives from the private sector, government agencies, the voluntary sector and residents. It included a series of workshops on various aspects of the future strategy.
- 2.2 This has provided a foundation for the period of consultation which runs from the 2nd February to the 16th March and aims to include as many audiences as possible through a variety of mediums.
- 2.3 Key stakeholders such as Wigan & Leigh Housing, the local RSLs, elected members etc have been written to formally and asked to respond. Further focus group activity has been carried out with particular groups such as the Housing Partnership, the Township Forums, the Homelessness Forum etc. There have been several press releases publicising the process and the link to the online survey is available on the front page of the Councils website. The link to the consultation page has also been posted on some of our partners' websites.
- 2.4 Posters advertising the document and a supply of summary documents have been placed at various locations throughout the borough such as doctors surgeries, libraries, housing offices etc. The Partners & Communities Together (PACT) process will be asking residents in 10 wards in Wigan & Leigh to complete the survey during the 6 week consultation process. Furthermore members of the Housing Strategy Team have attended events such as the Wigan Borough partnership Convention and the One Stop Shop event in Beech Hill to publicise the process and encourage responses.

3. What Happens Next?

- 3.1 Once the period of consultation ends, the responses will be analysed and a draft Housing Strategy for the Borough will be written. There will be a short period of consultation on the draft strategy following which the new strategy will be published in early summer 2009. Further reports feeding back on this process will be brought back to members.

4. Community Protection Panel Responses

- 4.1 Members of Community Protection Panel are asked to respond to the Housing issues paper either as a collective group or as individuals.

5. Conclusions

5.1 A new Housing Strategy is being developed and to assist a Housing Issues paper has been written. The consultation period on the issues paper runs from 2nd February 2009 to the 16th March 2009.

5.2 Members are invited to respond to the issues paper.