

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE & HOUSING
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item 10

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Value for Money Review of Housing
Date of Meeting: 26 June 08
Report of: The Director of Adult Social Care & Housing
Contact Officer: Name: Nick Hibberd Tel: 29-3756
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Key Decision: Yes Forward Plan No. HSG 0012
Wards Affected: All

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To provide ASC&H Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the scope and timetable of the Value for Money review of Housing Services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That ASC&H Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the report

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Brighton & Hove City Council is undertaking a corporate Value for Money (VfM) programme, involving a rolling cycle of service improvement work which will review all council services by mid-2008.
- 3.2 The Value for Money review of Housing Services commenced in March 2008 and is due to be completed by end July 2008. The scope of the review will cover the housing functions in the Adult Social Care & Housing Directorate, i.e. the following service divisions:
- Housing Strategy
 - Housing Management
- 3.3 The VfM Project Board has also agreed that the review should include a focus on the following areas:
- Strategic approach to housing need and homelessness
 - ICT
 - Premises (office accommodation, links to Property & Design)
 - Sickness absence
 - Staffing costs (use of agency staff)

- 3.4 A VfM review team has been convened to undertake the review, using the corporate VfM review methodology and toolkit. The review team is made up of senior managers from:
- Housing Management
 - Housing Strategy
 - Financial Services
 - Improvement & Organisational Development
- 3.5 The final report will include a high level analysis of recent, current and planned VfM work across the division. This stage of the review will not include the delivery of the VfM improvement opportunities. However, the opportunities agreed will be planned, resourced, have targets set and will be monitored to ensure the delivery of savings and service / performance improvements. Delivery of opportunities and progress towards targets will be monitored by the VfM Programme Board.
- 3.6 The review will follow the corporate VfM methodology to the following timetable:

Review stage	Start	End	Key meetings
1. Preparing for the review	17/3	28/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review commences • First Review Team meeting • Initial data gathering
2. Reviewing existing service provision	31 /3	25/04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with relevant managers • Data analysis
3. Prioritise areas of the service for improving VFM	28/04	09/05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of analysis • Prioritisation of improvement areas
4. Identify VFM improvement projects & final report	12/05	20/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DMT workshop to consider VfM opportunities
5. Target setting, monitoring and reporting	20/06	25/7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Final report • Key deliverables and monitoring schedule agreed

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The review process involves interviews with identified staff and a workshop with senior managers
- 4.2 The final report will be presented to Housing Management Consultative Committee and Housing Cabinet Members Meeting.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report. The final report of the VfM review of Housing Services will include consideration of the financial implications of the VfM improvement opportunities identified.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

6.1 Not applicable to this report.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the scope and timetable of the VfM Review of Housing Service, as the review is ongoing and therefore a final report has not been produced.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents In Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

