

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET MEETING
27TH APRIL 2006

An Older People's Strategy for Worcestershire Consultation

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Improved Health and Wellbeing
CORPORATE PLAN THEME:	Enabling and Community Wellbeing
KEY PRIORITY:	Housing and Independent Living
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Mrs A T Hingley
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Health and Environment
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APPENDICES	Appendix 1 – Strategy Consultation Distribution List Appendix 2 – Older Peoples Strategy for Worcestershire Consultation Paper (this appendix is available electronically and a public inspection copy is available on request (see front cover for details).

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To confirm the Council response to the consultation document “An Older Persons Strategy for Worcestershire”.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Cabinet agrees to the draft response to the “Older Peoples Strategy for Worcestershire” consultation paper (Appendix 2).**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Councils have been encouraged by the Government to develop a strategy for older people that creates a clear link between housing and related services and both health and social care, with a focus on maintaining older people within the community and improving their quality of life. This also clearly links to the Council’s own Housing Strategy priority for “maintaining the independence of older and vulnerable people through housing and support”. This is a complex issue to address particularly as it involves Worcestershire County Council, all six Worcestershire Districts, the PCTs and a range of voluntary sector organisations including services users and their representatives. It is also a fast moving policy agenda at national and local level

which requires a great deal of partnership work and co-ordination to ensure services for older people meet their needs and requirements.

- 3.2 An Older Persons Strategy Group comprising the main Statutory Agencies, has developed a draft Strategy which attempts to begin drawing together the different areas of work that relate to older people. The Council's Housing Services Manager has represented the Council on this Group. The draft Strategy has been widely consulted upon. (See Appendix 1 Strategy Consultation Distribution List) and a consultation event was held in Kidderminster on 14th February 2005.
- 3.2 The draft Strategy and Executive Summary can be located on the Intranet Homepage.
- 3.3 This is an ambitious project that will require further work to enable it to bed in and try to ensure that it begins to make a difference to older people. Much good work already takes place with regard to services such as housing and support and this strategy is attempting to build upon and extend already well established partnerships.
- 3.4 The consultation questions themselves are very wide ranging and some are not within the scope of the Council to make objective judgements and the questionnaire responses have therefore been limited to issues over which the Council has a direct operational or strategic role.
- 3.5 The draft response to the Older Peoples Strategy for Worcestershire Consultation Paper (see Appendix 2) has been submitted to Worcestershire County Council by officers and will be amended should Cabinet wish to add further comments.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None directly.

5. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Strategy should assist the Council meet its own corporate objectives.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 None specifically.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 This Strategy should help improve services to older people within Worcestershire and the Council's feedback through the consultation exercise and its continued input at officer level will assist in this achieving this objective.

8. CONSULTEES

- 8.1 Corporate Management Team.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None.

6.4.06