

**CABINET MEETING
22nd FEBRUARY 2007**

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SERVICE POLICY PANEL
23RD JANUARY 2007**

HOUSING STRATEGY ACTION PLAN REVIEW AND UPDATE

Members considered a briefing paper from the Housing Services Manager on the progress of the implementation of the Council's Housing Strategy 2004 – 2007.

The Housing Services Manager explained the changes taking place with regard to the housing strategies in the area and went on to explain the four main priorities that fell within the housing strategy. These priorities were:

- Meeting the affordable housing need
- Tackling homelessness and providing housing options
- Maintaining the independence of older and vulnerable people through housing and support
- Improving conditions within private sector housing

RECOMMENDATION:

Officers carry out a 'light touch' review of the current Housing Strategy and Action Plans during the Summer 2007, notwithstanding any further guidance on Housing Strategies being forthcoming.

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2006/07 – PROGRESS REPORT

The Panel considered a briefing paper from the Senior Health and Sustainability Officer on the Climate Change Action Plan 2006/07 Progress Report.

The Senior Health and Sustainability Officer explained that there had been a Task and Finish Group exercise in 2005 which investigated climate change issues. Wyre Forest District Council had signed the Worcestershire climate change pledge and this was a progress report based on action taken since signing the pledge. In June 2006, the Service Panel noted an action plan to ensure that the Council had delivered on the pledge.

The Senior Health and Sustainability Officer explained that there had been mixed progress over the year.

The Senior Health and Sustainability Officer told the Panel that the Council could consider signing up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change. Members questioned what the difference was between the two pledges. She explained that both were very similar in aspirations. Under the Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge, the Council would report back to the County Council annually but did not have to make public declarations and did not have to report to the public. Under the Nottingham Declaration, the Council would have to monitor and publish the monitoring report, which would make the Council more accountable.

The Senior Health and Sustainability Officer explained that the Council would need to undertake further work before being able to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration.

RECOMMENDED to the Cabinet to:

Recommend to Council:

Wyre Forest District Council make a fresh commitment to the Worcestershire Climate Change Pledge and sign the pledge with the additional four key actions for 2007:

- **Ensure that our organisation monitors its energy use, for example, through regular accurate meter readings.**
- **Use 100% 'green' energy, through procurement and/or generation.**
- **Reduce the organisation's energy use. Eg. through switching off appliances when not in use, insulation, using more efficient plant and appliances etc.**
- **Develop and implement a staff travel plan at Duke House.**