

Executive

Rural Affordable Housing and Exception Sites

11 May 2009

Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the report and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review into rural affordable housing and exception sites.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Executive is recommended:

- (1) to note the work of the Task and Finish Group scrutiny review into rural affordable housing and exception sites as detailed in Appendix 1a;
- (2) to agree the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations regarding rural affordable housing and exception sites as detailed in Appendix 1a.

Executive Summary

Introduction

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee concluded its review into rural affordable housing and exception sites at their meeting on 7 April 2009. Their findings, conclusions and recommendations are set out in the main body of the report (Appendix 1a). However, because of the complexity of the subject matter the Committee have, on this occasion, published a second volume of the key supporting documents (Appendix 1b).
- 1.2 In December 2008 the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing invited the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the Council's policy and procedures for the delivery of affordable housing on rural exception sites. The topic had been raised at the Parish Liaison meeting in November 2008 by a number of Parish Councils who were concerned and frustrated by their experience of the process.

- 1.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee decided to focus their review on the following issues:
- Customer satisfaction with the process
 - The service offering (performance, costs etc)
 - The partnership interface with the Oxfordshire Rural Communities Council and the lead Registered Social Landlord (Green Square Group - previously Oxford Citizens Housing Association)
 - The implications for future planning policy (the Local Development Framework - LDF)
- 1.4 The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Portfolio Holder, Planning and Housing have agreed to attend the Parish Liaison meeting on 17 June 2009 to provide feedback on the scrutiny outcomes and the Executive response.

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

- 3.1 The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward

Option One To accept some or all of the overview and scrutiny recommendations.

Option Two To reject some or all of the overview and scrutiny recommendations.

Consultations

See Appendix 1 for details

Implications

(Financial, Legal and Risk and other implications e.g. Equalities, Human Resources, Data Quality and Environmental where relevant)

Financial: There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by Denise Westlake, Service Accountant 01295 221559

Legal: There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Risk Management: There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by Rosemary Watts, Risk Management and Insurance Officer, 01295 221566

Wards Affected

All rural wards

Corporate Plan Themes

A District of Opportunity
An Accessible, Value for Money Council

Executive Portfolio

Councillor Gibbard
Portfolio Holder for Planning and Housing

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1a	Report: Rural affordable housing and exception sites
Appendix 1b	Appendices: Rural affordable housing and exception sites
Background Papers	
Report Author	Catherine Phythian, Scrutiny Officer
Contact Information	01295 221587 Catherine.phythian@Cherwell-dc.gov.uk