HOUSING IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN 2005 - 06

RESPONSIBL E OFFICER	WEAKNESSES IDENTIFIED	ACTION FOR IMPROVEMENT	MILESTONES	TIME- SCALE	PROGRESS AS AT QUARTER 3
1. Paul Staines	Gaps in the Council's Data on some groups such as elderly, black, minority & elderly (BME)	Updated HNS	Resources approved Brief drafted Providers sought Provider chosen Start Completion	Dec 04 Dec 04 Dec 04 Jan 05 Jan 05 Mar 05	Bid completed Draft produced. Commissioned refreshed version of 2000 survey Vale is part of a County bid to be a pathfinder for carrying out Housing Market assessments in the central Oxon area. In addition, Vale has been acting as consultant for Fordham Associates working up a viable BHM framework in Oxon. Refreshed assessment completed March 05
		Update House Condition Survey	Starts Completed Review policy, objectives and targets	Oct 04 Jan 05 Feb 05	House Condition Survey (HCS) – Completed draft March 05
2. Paul Staines	Outdated housing needs and private sector stock condition surveys	Consider revising frequency surveys carried out	Cost benefit analysis on more upto-date data.	Dec 04	No clear advice from Government Office of the South East (GOSE) or Housing Inspectorate on 'correct' frequency. Will be picked up as part of work to develop a new

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					approach to housing market assessment.
3. Paul Staines	Affordable housing is not an explicit aim	Update Council priorities against community strategy - Affordable Housing becomes explicit priority	Consider at Executive Reflect affordable housing as a priority in ISFP Reflected in budget	June 05	Affordable Housing now a Corporate Aim.
4. Rodger Hood	Slow development of the Local Plan	Ensure sufficient resources to prevent slippage of local plan timetable	Inquiry date for current local plan to 2011 fixed for May 2005	May 05	Inquiry completed Sept 05
	the Local Flan	Consider refocusing and increasing resources in development policy teams to give greater priority to the local plan/development plan.	Bid to Executive (November 2004) to use Planning Delivery Grant to provide additional resources for local plan inquiry	Nov. 04	Portfolio holder agreed to retention of £50K of Planning Delivery Grant award as contingency sum to ensure sufficient resources available for the Local Plan inquiry. Consultants used during inquiry session dealing with affordable housing to help present the Council's case.
			Adopt Local Plan to 2011	July 06	Inspector's report received. Target for adoption of Local Plan July 2006
		Improved project management	Prepare Local Development Scheme (LDS) for submission to Secretary of State by 31 st March 2005 LDS will specify Local Development Framework		Local Development Scheme (LDS) submitted to GOSE end of Feb 2005 and now agreed by GOSE. Work on LDF documents

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			(LDF) for preparation of future planning policy documents and will allocate resources, set out project management methods and timescales.		in progress in accordance with the LDS milestones
5. Rodger Hood		Ensure that service planning adequately reflects the desired compromise between timescales, quality and resources	Update Service Plan to reflect the Local Plan and LDS requirements	April 05	Initial stages of new Local Development Framework (as set out in the LDS) included as core service objective in the 2005/06 service plan with resource implications for 2005/06 spelt out. Service Plan agreed by Portfolio Holder, and Executive. Work on LDS programme in progress
6. Rodger Hood		Consider reduction in scope of consultation to reduce pressure on staff resources and decision making processes to enable speedier progress	Consultation on LDF to be determined through preparation of the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) required by latest Planning Regulations - consultation on level of	Dec 05	Need to bear in mind the balance of pressure of work versus quality of Local Development Framework as it progresses

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			Community Involvement Executive considered revision to the SCI in the light of consultation responses 3.2.06 Annual Monitoring Report published December 05.		
7. Katie Barrett	No Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on affordable housing	Draft published for consultation Consider responses – publish revised draft, then final version when Local Plan to 2011 adopted	Revised draft to be published after inspector's report received	May/June 2006	Action not required until May/Jun 2006
8. Rodger Hood	Currently behind Structure Plan 2003 targets for the delivery of affordable housing	Apply new District affordable housing targets following receipt of Local Plan Inspector's report Implement affordable housing SPG and linkage to Social Housing Grant.	In the interim seek maximum possible affordable housing provision through development control process using draft Local Plan Policy and draft SPG and, following receipt of the Inspector's report, apply the new targets and thresholds he has recommended	Oct. 04 onwards	Ongoing. Dev.Control staff negotiating with Developers as appropriate. Joint liaison meetings between housing officers to optimise performance and broaden understanding of key issues.
Rodger Hood/ Katie Barrett		More Explicit monitoring against current targets. From Local PI to incorporate in service delivery statement and	 Local performance indicators for achievement of affordable housing 	Jan 06	Final targets and indicators to be set following receipt of Inspector's report on Local Plan Inquiry which will determine affordable

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		corporate governance report.			housing percentage target and development site size thresholds.
					Interim local indicators implemented for 2 nd quarter 2005/06.
Rodger Hood/Katie Barrett					
9. Tim Sadler		Strengthen Housing Services input into the development control team approach to advise on the amount and type of affordable housing needed (see review below)	Report to Executive This to be developed following the joint training	Dec 04 Nov 05	Monitor performance with new Local Performance Indicators
10. Tim Sadler/ Paul Staines	No strategic response to loss of Local Authority Social Housing Grant (LASHG)	Strategic response to loss of LASHG in place -Report to Executive stating our position in time to feed into integrated service and financial plan	Identified three strands to strategic approach 1. Capital funding	Nov. 05	Capital fund approved in budget. Reviewing potential of PFI.
			2. Appropriate local plan policies	April 06	Draft SPG on affordable housing presented to SLAG. Will now be

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					reviewed in light of Inspector's report and other developments.
			high level of joint working between housing and planning officers	Nov/Dec 05	Following joint training, monitoring performance through LPIs.
11. Tim Sadler/ Paul Staines	Limited mechanisms in place to maintain information base	Review enabling role as part of report to Executive on loss of LASHG Enabling role refocused to provide relevant and up-to-date information to support bids, planning and negotiations on individual sites	Report to Executive	Dec 04	Staff resources found from existing to develop comprehensive database. Project and SDP to be developed for 2006/07.
12. Tim Sadler/ Paul Staines	Worst quarter performance on Best Value Performance	Implement existing Service Development Plans for BVPI's for 62, 64, 183a (Vale Value Proposition (VVP)	BVPI's monitored monthly Improve understanding of calculation and what indicator sensitive to.	Done	BV64- out of bottom quartile
	Indicators (BVPI's)	Re-consider position in respect of 183b	Review targets etc for BVPI 62 following HCS in Feb 05	Feb 05	BV62- improvement takes us out of bottom quartile
			Report to Executive on managing BV 183b	June 05	BV 183a out of bottom quartile.
					Report to Executive on managing BV 183b out of bottom quartile July 2005. Second quarter performance (YTD) out of bottom quartile.
					Third quartile in bottom quarter due to raising of

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					bottom quartile nationally and one case involving arrears of service charge which we intend to discount from our figures.
13. Katie Barrett 14. Rodger Hood/Katie Barrett	Failing to deliver against the targets set in Structure Plan	Implement action plan for housing delivery and monitoring framework agreed with GOSE	 Action Plan first revision to be completed by November 2004 Review revised action plan with Government Office for South East, as required 	Nov 05	Action plan agreed with GOSE January 05. Monitoring in progress. Monitoring meeting with GOSE held Nov.05. Action plan & housing trajectory revised.