



## AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Strategic Housing services- Risk Register</b>
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

<b>Audit Committee Meeting Date:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> March 2012
<b>Policy Document:</b>	No
<b>Directorate:</b>	Housing
<b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr Markham

### 1. Purpose

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1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Audit committee with the latest Strategic Housing risk register for review as attached at **Appendix A**.

### 2. Recommendations

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2.1 That Audit Committee review the Strategic Housing Risk Register.

### 3. Issues and Choices

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#### 3.1 Report Background

3.1.1 Strategic Housing provides services to some of our most vulnerable customers. The council has statutory duties in relation to Housing advice and homelessness, the administration of disabled facilities grants and the allocation of social housing.

3.1.2 There are a number of key relationships with other statutory services particularly Health and Adult care and children's services.

3.1.3 The Housing service plan includes the following key priorities for 2012/13:

- Support people to live independently
- Prevent homelessness

- Maximise opportunities for local people to access affordable housing
- Improve the quality standards within the private housing sector

### **3.2 Issues**

- 3.2.1 There are increasing numbers of households approaching the council as homeless due to the impact of the economic climate. The council has a legal duty to provide temporary accommodation in many cases in order to make such enquiries as are necessary to determine the application.
- 3.2.2 Temporary accommodation is in short supply and the council is using bed and breakfast where no other accommodation is available. This is the most expensive form of temporary housing and the least suitable.
- 3.2.3 There is a significant reduction in the supply of new build social housing due to the economic downturn. This is impacting negatively on the council's ability to provide alternative accommodation in order to prevent homelessness and to meet the housing aspirations of the people of Northampton.
- 3.2.4 Housing has a key role in identifying potential safeguarding issues and to make referrals to the County council where appropriate.
- 3.2.5 There are significant challenges arising from the Localism act, specifically Social Housing and Welfare reform.
- 3.2.6 The full list of issues for the service are contained within the risk register for Strategic housing.

### **3.3 Choices (Options)**

- 3.3.1 There is a wealth of evidence that promotes the importance of housing related support to vulnerable people in order to promote independent living and prevent more costly services being required. In the context of difficult decisions on funding priorities the council has an option to remove this support.

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

- 4.1.1 There are no direct policy or financial issues arising from this report.

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

- 4.2.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this report
- 4.2.2 There no direct risks arising from this report

### **4.3 Legal**

4.3.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

### **4.4 Equality**

4.4.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

4.5.1 The portfolio holder for Housing has been consulted on this report.

### **4.6 Other Implications**

4.6.1 None

## **5. Background Papers**

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5.1 Strategic Housing Risk Register.

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