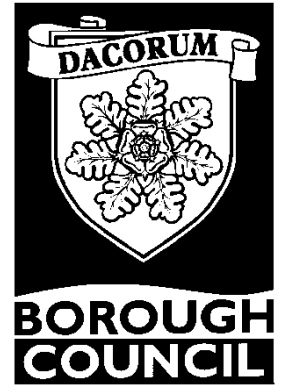


AGENDA ITEM 11

SUMMARY



Report for:	Housing and Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date of meeting:	9th May 2012
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Update on Council New Build Programme
Contact:	Margaret Griffiths, Portfolio Holder for Housing Jack Burnham, Team Leader Housing Strategy & Development Camelia Smith, Lead Officer – Housing Development
Purpose of report:	1. To inform the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the progress of the Council New Build Programme
Recommendations	1. That the Committee note the content of the report
Corporate objectives:	Affordable Housing
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> *****
'Value For Money Implications'	<u>Value for Money</u> *****
Risk Implications	-
Equalities Implications	-
Health And Safety Implications	-

Consultees:	Assistant Director, Planning and Regeneration Group Manager, Procurement
Background papers:	
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	HCA – Homes and Communities Agency

Background

1. Cabinet agreed the New Build Business Plan as a part 2 item at March Cabinet. This report contained details on how the programme of 45 new Council homes and a 33 bed hostel would be built.
2. A working group has been established with officers from Estates, Planning and Strategic Housing to look at suitable sites to build units on. A process for sifting these sites for discussion at Corporate Regeneration Group has been established. This ensures sites can be discussed with members and officers, but sensitive information related to development and land can be kept confidential for the initial pre-planning stages.
3. Officers are also currently looking at the best way to procure a multidisciplinary firm to enable proposals to be taken from ideas phase to a position where outline drawings and feasibility studies can be undertaken on any potential sites.
4. The Strategic Housing team has met with Procurement to discuss methods of tendering for works. In order to provide the Council with a pre-procured panel of contractors, the Council has signed up to the HCA's Development Partner Protocol, which allows works to be tendered to 17 pre-procured contractors.
5. Officers have been in contact with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to arrange discussions on signing up to their development programme to confirm funding. A meeting is expected in mid-late May 2012, when the contract can be discussed. Dacorum's Legal department have viewed the contract and have agreed in principle with the Council signing up with the HCA for funding.
6. As part of the new build programme, the Council is obligated to meet with the HCA every quarter. It is proposed that an update is brought to Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee after these meetings to ensure that members are kept up to date with the progress of the programme.