Draft Housing Service Plan 16/17

Service Objectives into Action (GM Level)

This section details the delivery plans for each Group Manager over the next financial year.

- NB: You should have a maximum of 5 key actions per objective
- NB: 'Who is Responsible for Delivery' should include people from other teams who are also responsible for this task

Group Manager 1: Andy Vincent

Service: Tenants & Leaseholders

Service Objective: Knowing more about our customers

September 2016 Update

Proposals for the profiling project have been considered by the Housing Senior Management Team in August

Key results will be reported to tenants in the Autumn News and Views and to Scrutiny Committee in September

Key Actions	By When	Who is Responsible for Delivery	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once this is done?
Customer Profiling Project	• March 2017	Team Leader – Policy and Participation		Knowing more about our tenants will enable services to be target at those who need it most
STAR analysis (Survey of Tenants & Leaseholders	• May 2016	Team Leader – Policy and Participation	•	This exercise enables us to understand tenant's priorities and changing views of the services provided by Housing

Service Objective: Implement Resident Involvement Strategy (Housing)

Tenant promises as being reviewed. New draft promises have been developed as a result of the STAR survey

A proposed new strategy was taken to Scrutiny Committee in July

Cabinet will be asked to sign off the new strategy in the Autumn

Key Actions	By When	Who is Responsible for Delivery	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once this is done?
 Review of Tenant Promises 	October 2016	Team Leader – Policy and Participation	Focus will reduce wasted use of resources	This will enable the service to identify and focus on tenant priorities

Develop a new Tenant Involvement Strategy taking the service forward for the next few year promoting tenant involvement online	March 2017	Team Leader – Policy and Participation	•	It is a requirement of the service to involve tenants and identify their priorities. By involving tenants online this will enable the widest number of views to be canvassed in the most cost efficient way.
Involving Tenants online	• July 2016	Team Leader – Policy and Participation	Part of the Council's overall efficiency drive under Digital Dacorum	It is a requirement of the service to involve tenants and identify their priorities. By involving tenants online this will enable the widest number of views to be canvassed in the most cost efficient way.

Service Objective: Develop more Digital Access to Services & Communication

September 2016 Update

The digital Direct Debit project is completed. A take up campaign will be launched imminently

The use of text messaging is built into the new rent collection procedures. This is due to be launched on 1 October.

A gradual transition to making News and View more electronic will commence with the next edition

Key Actions	By When	Who is	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once
		Responsible for		

		Delivery		this is done?
Replace paper direct debits and rent letters with digital alternatives	August 2016	Team Leader – Housing Income	Savings have been identified from this initiative	 There will be a reduction in printing and postage costs – plus reductions in the costs associated with processing payments
Extend use of text messaging	August 2016	Team Leader – Housing Income	This will enable the service to further reduce its printing costs	This will enable the service to communicate with tenants via text. This should enable the number of letters produced to be reduced
News & Views electronically	• July 2016	Team Leader – Policy and Participation	This will enable the service to further reduce its printing costs	Communication will be increasingly undertaken in an electronic format

Service Objective: Preparation for Welfare Reform Impact

September 2016 Update

Plans are in place to target those families affects by the revised Benefit Cap. Details are still being produced by the Department of Work and Pensions.

This approach is set out within the new Rent Collection Procedure – due to implementation 1 October

Key Actions	By When	Who is	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once
		Responsible for		

		Delivery		this is done?
Put in place a Communications Plan to inform tenants about the support in place for tenants impacted by the introduction Universal Credits	September 2016	Team Leader – Housing Income working with the Benefits Service	None expected	Tenants will be aware of the support the Housing Service and the wider Council can provide for tenants in receipt of welfare benefits
Identify approach to different customer segments – ensure the resources of the team are targeted on those who most need it	• July 2016	Team Leader – Housing Income		 Less resources will be targeted at individuals where they are able to pay – to remind them More Resources will be focused on those households where they are identified as being at risk of tenancy failure by using a segmented approach

Service Objective: Investigate tenant incentive scheme

September 2016 Update

Initial research completed – report due to Portfolio Holder and Housing Senior Management Team October 2016

Key Actions	By When	Who is	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once

		Responsible for Delivery		this is done?
Investigate tenant incentive schemes adopted by other social housing providers and the effectiveness at incentivizing the tenants to behave in a way that reduces cost	• July 2016	Policy & Participation Team Leader and all GM's	• unknown	Understanding of the options currently adopted within the social housing sector and associated management and cost reductions.
Introduce a Dacorum scheme	• Quarter 4	Tenancy Team and all GM's	• unknown	Reduction in clearance costs, fly-tipping and unauthorised alterations.

Service Objective: Develop the support service offered

September 2016 Update

No significant progress has been made - New Supported Housing Team Leader to start 24/10/16

Key Actions	By When	Who is	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once
		Responsible for		this is done?
		Delivery		

Extend Support Service into community	October 2016	Team Leader – Supported Housing	Some additional income will be generated from tenants in receipt of this service	Older people with support needs living within the community will have their support needs met
Better and closer working with health agencies	September 2016	Team Leader – Supported Housing	None expected	 Older people living in supported housing will have better access to health and exercise provision. Accommodation within
				supported housing which enables health providers to reduce costs will be utilised
Review charging structure of community and life line service	September 2016 to align with the budget setting process	Team Leader – Supported Housing	Additional income will be generated by changing the charging structure	 The charging structure within supported housing will better reflect the costs of the service.

Service Objective: Prepare for the introduction of the Housing and Planning Bill					
September 2016 Update					

A working group has been set up to consider these changes

The Council's Rent Setting Policy has been to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Portfolio Holder will be asked to approve it

	Key Actions	By When	Who is Responsible for Delivery	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once this is done?	
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Service Objective: Develop the support service offered					
Key Actions	By When	Who is Responsible for Delivery	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once this is done?	
Extend Support Service into community	• March 2017	Team Leader – Supported Housing	Some additional income will be generated from tenants in receipt of this service	Older people with support needs living within the community will have their support needs met	The team is looking a staff capacity to enable support to be 'floated' into the community
Better and	• March 2017	• Team	• None	Older people living in	This is in progress

closer working with health agencies		Leader – Supported Housing	expected	supported housing will have better access to health and exercise provision. • Accommodation within supported housing which enables health providers to reduce costs will be utilised	
Review charging structure of community and life line service	September 2016 to align with the budget setting process	Team Leader – Supported Housing	Additional income will be generated by changing the charging structure	The charging structure within supported housing will better reflect the costs of the service.	This work has been completed and the charging structure has been updated

Group Manager 2: Julia Hedger/Natasha Brathwaite

Service: Strategic Housing

Service Objective:

Maximise the opportunities for the Council's Help to Rent Scheme to prevent homelessness – JH/NB

September 2016 Update:

Help to Rent incentives implemented in June 2016 following cabinet approval. Additional advertising using alternative media also in place, in addition to better use of existing media opportunities. This has led to additional interest being generated in the scheme, in addition to 6 new properties in 2 months.

Ongoing investigation into the feasibility of setting up a letting agency, final report and findings to be submitted Oct -Dec 2016.

Key Actions	By When	Who is	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once
		Responsible for		this is done?
		Delivery		

Implement a package of initiatives & Incentives to the help to rent scheme	Subject to cabinet approval oct/novJune 2016	Lead Officer – Private Sector Housing	None expected	 An Increase in Private Landlord and the ability to retain the current relationships Saving in TA costs More prevention of Homelessness
 Carry out feasibility of the Council setting up a local lettings agency 	October 2016	Team Leader Property	 Potential for income generation (initial start up costs) 	Control and influence of the private rented sector locally

Service Objective:

Ensure that the approved Housing Development Programme is delivered on time and on budget maximising the potential regarding investment and tenure mixes

- Aspen Court London Road completed in July 2016, now occupied
- Queen Street scheme completed 8.9.16 will be tenanted w/c 12.9.16
- Wood House contract awarded to Jarvis SOS in October 2016 (50% Shared ownership, 50% rented)
- Stationers Place tenders currently being reviewed, recommendation to award contract to Cabinet October 2016
- Swing Gate Lane invite to tender out end of September 2016
- Work on Martindale ongoing current proposal 50% outright sale, 50% rented
- Work begun with legal advisors regarding shared ownership leases
- Jarvis to assist with marketing of scheme at wood House . BPHA (local zone agent) to assist in sales of properties.

Key Actions	By When	Who is Responsible for Delivery	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once this is done?
 Deliver Current Development Programme on time and budget 	Individual Timescales for each Project	 Housing Development Manager 	 Programme delivered on time will ensure HRA Business Plan assumptions are realised 	New Homes delivered on time increasing Council Housing Stock
 Ensure that the tenure opportunities are maximised at Wood House & Martindale 	In Line with Project Timescales	Housing Development Manager	Business Plan assumes a mix of tenures for schemes to be viable	Funds from sale and shared ownership available for re- investment
 Plan to be developed for the marketing, sale and future management of Woodhouse Shared Ownership 	• October	Housing Development Manager	Income GenerationIncome Recovery (Service Charges)	 This is a new area for the Council. The Council would be a recognised provider of different types of housing tenures Income received in line with Business Plan Assumptions

Service Objective: Work towards Achieving 'Gold Standard' for Homelessness for our Advice and Options Team

September 2016 Update

First local challenge application has been submitted and outcome is expected to be received by end of September 2016. A further 4 local challenges are in draft form preparing for submission prior to December 2016.

Key Actions	By When	Who is Responsible for Delivery	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once this is done?
Achieve bronze standard following successful peer review	December 2016	Team Leader People	None Expected	 Improved Customer Experience Working Relationship with internal and External partners More Efficient Delivery National Recognised as an excellent service

Service Objective:

Improve performance and Customer Experience in the letting and turnaround of Empty Homes

September 2016 Update

Work to improve approach to lettings delivery is ongoing. Ongoing performance challenge with EH team and Osborne to improve working relationships, communication and resolve delays. Further performance monitoring of Lettings staff to improve targets. Issuing of digital sign up packs and tenancy agreement implemented in August 2016, with very minor amendments to be made during September 2016 to ensure robust process and more efficient overall customer experience. Trial news advert and increased detail/advert format for new HPCHA newbuilds, to increase interest in RP properties (Sep 2016). Further investigation ongoing in relation to systems and storage availability with IT.

Key Actions	By When	Who is Responsible for Delivery	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once this is done?
 Explore and implement 'nudge' ideas relating to the experience of applying for and being allocated an empty home 	December 2016	Team Leader Property	Shorter Turnaround times results in less rental loss	 Better experience for future tenants More efficient – less resource intensive

Service Objective: Maximise Income generation and efficiencies from the Allocations Process & Temporary Accommodation Service

September 2016 Update

Temporary accommodation fees increased, increase use of HRA properties charged at higher fees, which has generated additional HRA income effective from April 2016 ongoing. Further enquiries ongoing with Housing Benefit and other TA providers in relation to 'support charge' – estimated completion Oct 2016. Report regarding implementation of Abritas charges, expected to generate approximately £20K additional income, due at HSMT September 2016.

Key Actions	By When	Who is	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once
		Responsible for		this is done?
		Delivery		

Increase Temporary Accommodation Licence Fees	• July 2016	Team Leader Property	Income Generation	Increased revenue
 investigate feasibility of introducing a support charge for licencees 	• July 2016	Team Leader Property	Income Generation	Residents receiving support in TA would be charged in the same way that Supported Housing Tenants are
 Implement Charging for the administration of Registered Provider Nominations 	April 17	Team Leader Property	Income Generation	A number of Local RP's would be charged by DBC for managing their nominations from the Housing Register

Group Manager 3: Fiona Williamson

Service: Property and Place

Service Objective: Development of an Asset Options tool

- Various asset management software packages are being reviewed to establish the ability of each to integrate into Orchard and deliver the required functionality and accessibility for service providers. Criteria for alternative systems if being developed to align with PSN security requirements.
- Date quality validation has commenced and will continue throughout the remainder of the year to ensure the data in the asset management database is updated to reflect the information collected in the surveys undertaken by Osborne or other service providers.
- Tenant consultation on hold for the new tenant involvement structure to be introduced and aligned to the asset management software and options tool.

Key Actions	By When	Who is Responsible for Delivery	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once this is done?
Investigate the current systems available on the market to determine suitability for aligning with the Total Asset Management contract and methods of data collection.	September 2016	Team Leader Assets and Business Improvement	None expected	 Identification of the most appropriate system and associated costs Identification of resource requirements to maintain the information Improvements in the quality and usefulness of reports
Data Quality	• July 2016	 Team Leader 	 None expected 	 Improved data quality for

review of exi data stored of Asset Manag Database	on the	Assets and Business Improvement		management reporting and evidence based decisions.
Conclude consultation tenants and leaseholders the variables are to be asswithin the Asoptions Tool	on s that sessed sset	Team Leader Assetys & Business Improvement & Team Leader Policy & Participation	None expected	Improved understanding of the priorities for tenants and leaseholders in the ongoing management of the housing stock

Service Objective: Review Tenancy Sustainment training

September 2016 Update

Tenancy Sustainment Sessions have been reviewed and amended to reflect current needs and user feedback

Key Actions	By When	Who is Responsible for Delivery	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once this is done?
 Review Tenancy Sustainment sessions 	• July 2016	Tenancy Sustainment Team Leader	Efficiencies and a reduction in current spending on sessions may be found through	 New tenants will be more prepared and able to manage their DBC tenancy High risk tenants will be identified in sessions and

			implementing improvements	support offered to reduce tenancy failure
Introduce measures to evaluate effectiveness and demonstrate value	• July 2016	Tenancy Sustainment Team Leader	None expected	 Effectiveness of sessions will be monitored and clearly demonstrated. Future sessions will be more evidence based leading to better outcomes for tenants and reduced tenancy failures

Service Objective: Undertake review of the Cleaning Service

- Initial work has been undertaken to establish the costs and income derived from the existing cleaning service to determine a baseline for the options appraisal.
- Additional areas that could be developed to increase income with low levels of additional investment are being evaluated

Key Actions	By When	Who is	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once
		Responsible for		this is done?
		Delivery		

Review cleaning service delivered to the social housing stock within the Borough including full options appraisal	• Jan 2017	Cleaning Team Leader	It is expected that efficiencies will be identified through this process but as yet unknown	Initially no change, but improved knowledge of the options available for the delivery of the service and any cost implications identified.
Implementation of any improvements identified during the review	• April 2017	Cleaning Team Leader	Ensure efficiencies identified are realised	 Improvements to the service to tenants and leaseholders Use of technology to support the service in reporting repairs and monitoring cleaning performance. Reduced complaints

Service Objective: Review of the management of Leasehold Services - FW

- Recommendations have been implemented and two cases for extension applications have been determined
- Freehold disposal has been offered to 2 blocks that are exclusively leasehold have been made and declined
- Details from the STAR survey have been finalised and an initial review undertaken to establish areas of low satisfaction with the leasehold service. The in depth review will be undertaken in the next two quarters of the year.

Key Actions	By When	Who is	Impact on MTFS	What will be different once
		Responsible for		this is done?

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		Delivery		
Implement recommendations in the Portfolio holders report from Quarter 3 2015 and review the impact and level of revenue generated	• July 2016	Team Leader Assets and Business improvement	Income from leaseholders maximised	 Increase revenue streams identified. Potential increase in freehold disposal to blocks of flats in wholly leasehold ownership
Review of the outputs from the STAR surveys in respect of leasehold satisfaction with the service and options for improvement	• Jan 2017	Team Leader Assets and Business improvement	Service improvement should result in less financial disputes and higher collection of service charges	Increase understanding of the satisfaction levels and monitoring if the recommendations from the review improve satisfaction with the service in the next STAR survey