

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND
REGIONAL HOUSING BOARD**

Date: 5 September 2007

Subject: **Making the Case**

Report of: Director of Development
South East England Regional Assembly

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Regional Housing Board approve, subject to any comments, the draft outline structure for the Making the Case document.

Purpose of Report:

To present a draft outline for the structure of the proposed Making the Case document for consideration by the Board.

Key Issue:

The Making the Case document will complement the update on the Regional Housing Strategy in so far that it sets out the region's case for additional public sector investment in the delivery of affordable housing. In order to maximise its impact the document must focus on the essential challenges facing the region as it seeks to deliver the identified need for affordable housing.

I. Context

- 1.1 Elsewhere on this agenda the Board will consider a draft of the update to the Regional Housing Strategy. The update reflects the work that the Board has done to improve the evidence base available in the region. It also sets out the Board's objectives and funding priorities for the next three years.
- 1.2 The Board's recommendations reflect the indicative level of public sector investment in affordable housing however it is clear from the evidence base that the level of funding is insufficient to enable the region to deliver the identified need for affordable housing.
- 1.3 We know from the evidence base available to the region that a failure to provide for sufficient affordable housing will have both social and economic implications. Notwithstanding recent increases in the level of funding available it is clear that there is a need to continue to press for additional public sector investment.
- 1.4 The purpose of the Making the Case document is to use the evidence base available and to prepare a cogent and succinct case that can be put to Government.
- 1.5 The policies and proposals on affordable housing set out in the draft South East Plan were considered in some detail at the Examination in Public held earlier this year. It is anticipated that the report of the Panel that conducted the EiP will be published by the end of August. It will be important to examine the report and its recommendations carefully for comments and/or recommendations that will support the region's case.

2. Next Steps

- 2.1 The Board is asked to consider the draft outline structure set out in Annex I. The Project Team will, subject to the comments of the Board, use this to prepare the detailed content of the document.
- 2.2 It is anticipated that the final document will be published alongside the update to the Regional Housing Strategy.

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