

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND
REGIONAL HOUSING BOARD**

Date: 5 December 2007

Subject: **Strategic Housing Regional Improvement Programme**

Report of: Director of Development
South East England Regional Assembly

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Regional Housing Board:

1. Welcomes the support being provided to improve delivery of the strategic housing role.
2. Agrees to work with the Improvement and Development Agency for local government (IDeA) to deliver common objectives through the programme.

Purpose of the Report:

To introduce the IDeA Strategic Housing Improvement Programme and illustrate the synergies between the programme and Regional Housing Board priorities.

Key Issues:

The programme aims to enhance the region's ability to achieve housing growth and to build sustainable communities.

I. Background

I.1 In the light of recent Government proposals relating to housing, planning and local government, Communities and Local Government had identified a need to support local authority councillors, officers and partners to help them deliver an enhanced strategic housing function.

I.2 IDeA had been commissioned to develop and deliver a support programme which aims to achieve four main outcomes:

- Local authorities will be better equipped to connect and manage their related housing, planning and economic development functions and to take the lead responsibility for creating balanced housing markets as part of their 'place-shaping role'.
- Housing Strategies will be strengthened by their improved integration into Sustainable Community Strategies and local authorities will be better equipped to deliver strategic housing outcomes through their Local Area Agreements, and to manage cross-boundary housing investment through Multi Area Agreements.
- Local Authorities leadership and influence within Local Strategic Partnerships will enable strategic housing functions to deliver outcomes in other service areas including health, community safety and neighbourhood management.
- Local Authorities, and particularly elected members, will develop their skills and abilities in ensuring that local people are able to influence strategic housing outcomes, including investment in new and existing housing across all tenures.

I.3 Caroline Bosdet, the IDeA consultant responsible for the programme in the South East will give a presentation on key aspects of the programme, indicating potential for collaboration on issues of mutual interest, principally regarding responding to the challenge of housing growth, understanding housing markets and providing larger, well-designed affordable homes in sustainable locations.

**Martin Tugwell, Director of Development
South East England Regional Assembly**

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Contact: Catherine Stubbings, Housing Policy Advisor
Tel: 01483 555216
Email: catherinestubbings@southeast-ra.gov.uk