

Rural Housing Update

Rural Affordable Housing is a Local Priority within the LAA, and the target based on definitions for the National Indicator for Affordable Housing but focusing on communities of less than 3000 population. The baseline figure for delivery based on an average over 3 years is 80 homes and we have targets for 100, 120 and 140 over next 3 years.

The Rural Affordable Housing target has been based on consultation with Local Authorities and work by the Rural Housing Enablers on the pipeline of work within their programme. The RHE work will not deliver all the housing but is seen as an important strand within the Delivery Plan and we have secured funding for 2008/09 and are working on finalising the funding package to secure to 2010/11.

We are also improving our links with the North Devon and Exmoor Rural Housing Partnership.

All the targets in the Housing Priorities are very challenging, particularly given the current economic context/state of the housing market.

At present the Rural Aff Housing Delivery Plan is pulled together in an overarching Delivery Plan for all Housing (i.e Market and Affordable, Rural and Urban) which is under development. The Rural elements will then be disaggregated out and the Devon Rural Housing Partnership will lead on the rural actions. Some actions will be generic whether urban or rural. We have been tasked with putting together the high level delivery plan by end of July and consultation with Local Authority partners is ongoing. The DRHP is developing a range of more detailed and innovative ideas for actions within the detailed project plans and we would be happy to copy into your members in future as they develop.

The thinking behind the Overarching Plan is:

- Actions to be high level which enables the detailed project plans and Project Leads to be worked up over the summer.
- To provide the right hooks for partners to take forward work that will provide additionality to their day job. It has been challenging getting the communication right and getting engagement as the LAA is a bit of a turn off for many actually doing the job of delivering homes, the challenges will be to develop a plan that really brings additionality to their work and isn't just another initiative.
- To provide the right hooks to enable to Actions to be developed and delivered in different ways at different levels of geography if necessary (i.e to have some flexibility)
- To produce a Plan that is not set in stone but that can evolve and respond to a changing environment

If any Steering Group members would like a copy of the draft table of objectives, strategic outcomes and high level actions please contact me. I need comments by 18th July at the latest. My formatting isn't great and there are still some typos etc but it may illustrate direction of travel.

Finally DSHG will be holding their Annual Forum on 16 October this year at Exeter Racecourse and we will be focusing on the LAA Delivery Plan. Invitations will be coming out in the next few weeks.