

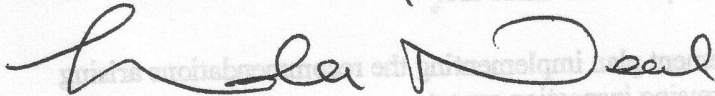
- "Tenancy Services" to create a separate unit to focus on the delivery of the Council's landlord functions
- Commissioned and received a Combined Housing Needs and Private Sector Stock Condition survey report which also incorporated an assessment of the needs of Gypsies and Travellers
- Undertaken a fundamental review of the Council's Housing Strategy due for submission to GOEM in Spring 2006
- Affordable housing approved as a category A Priority of the Council for "stepped" improvement, which follows the Council's earlier decision to identify Large Scale Voluntary Stock Transfer as the preferred option of the Council for the future ownership and management of the Council's Housing Stock
- Building relationships with Housing Partners Countywide resulting in a successful joint bid for Innovation funding which in South Kesteven's case will be to fund work with the Citizen's Advice Bureau on Homelessness prevention within the private sector housing market

Whilst we have achieved the above, there have been some external barriers, which have impeded our rate of progress, although we are determined to overcome these. Particularly, they relate to our ability to recruit suitably experienced and qualified housing professionals, which I am aware is not uncommon nationally; and the current local planning allocations emanating from the regional planning policies, which have had an impact on our ability to deliver sufficient affordable housing, in the light of ripple affect upon the south of our district from the London, Stansted, Cambridge and Peterborough Growth Corridor.

However, on a positive note, I am also looking forward, in the New Year, to the outcome of the work that officers have done with Bob Lawrence one of the ODPM's specialist advisors on Homelessness Prevention.

I am sure that you will see that the Council has taken the outcome of the Inspection seriously and has committed significant investment to the service and is introducing a new approach to its Strategic Housing Service, which can only bear fruit upon the re-inspection of the service.

Yours Sincerely



Linda Neal
Leader