

## **Rushcliffe Borough Council Housing Delivery Plan Consultation - closing date 14th September**

Rushcliffe Borough Council is committed to ensuring that it provides services which enhance the local environment, promote housing choice and promote the well-being of people who live and work in the Borough. General economic conditions will determine much of what happens in the housing sector in the next five years, however, issues which are likely to dominate include:

- Housing building production
- Greater use of the private rented sector
- Increased housing need and demand on advice services
- Welfare reform
- Devolution of housing

Devolved powers mean that many aspects of housing policy will be determined locally. Whilst this may provide some uncertainty in the short-term, it should provide Councils with greater freedoms and opportunities to find local solutions to increase housing supply, meet local housing needs, improve health outcomes and drive economic growth.

The Rushcliffe Housing Strategy was published in 2009 to cover a period up to 2016. The document sets out the key challenges and opportunities relating to housing over the period and identifies priority issues upon which to focus resources.

There have been many changes over the past six years which affect housing services at a local level, including significant reductions in Government spending on housing and housing related support. These changes impact on local people and change the housing market, the demand for different types of properties and the number of new homes being built including affordable homes.

As identified in the Housing Strategy, housing and housing related support has a key role to play in improving the health of our population and also on contributing to economic growth. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that we have a robust plan in place to identify current priorities and have actions to target resources to meet current and future key challenges and to maximise opportunities.

The Housing Strategy is currently being reviewed and updated to take such issues into account. Whilst it is no longer a statutory duty for Local Authorities to publish a Housing Strategy, Rushcliffe Borough Council considers that it is important to clearly set out future housing related priorities. The updated document will form a concise housing delivery plan which will identify key priorities in which we will work with partners over the next 5 years.

The Housing Delivery Plan is important because it sets out the future priorities for housing policy which will influence our approaches, including how we will help people who are in need of housing, promote independence and identify the services we will provide to improve the quality and range of housing and housing related support across Rushcliffe. It also seeks to clearly establish and maximise the opportunities for housing to have a significant positive impact on a range of other services including health and economic development.

The Council will take a lead role in developing and monitoring the Delivery Plan in consultation with key stakeholders to identify shared objectives and priorities for action. However, partnerships will be key to the success of the Delivery Plan which will require all stakeholders to work more efficiently to deliver those outcomes.

The Housing Strategy (2009-16) included an action plan which identified key priorities with timescales. Much has been achieved over the lifetime of the Strategy in spite of a challenging economic environment. Examples of key achievements during this period are identified within the consultation.

This consultation paper provides an initial opportunity for stakeholders to influence the key themes and priorities that should be included in the new Housing Delivery Plan for Rushcliffe and to identify the opportunities for collaborative working to deliver positive change.

Successful implementation of this plan will require the efforts of all of our partners so your views are very important to us and will be used to strengthen the plan before it is finalised in January 2016.

**A link to the response document is available at**  
**<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RushcliffeHousingDeliveryPlan>**  
**The closing date for responses is 14<sup>th</sup> September.**