*PART A

Report to: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date of meeting: 20 June 2012

Report of: Committee and Scrutiny Officer

Title: Previous Review Update: Affordable Housing Review

1.0 **SUMMARY**

1.1 This report provides an update on recommendations 3 and 4 of the Affordable Housing Review which were last reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 26 July 2012. It was agreed that these recommendations would be reviewed in June 2012.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 that Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the latest update and considers whether the Scrutiny Committee's recommendations have been met.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact: Sandra Hancock,

Committee and Scrutiny Officer

telephone extension: 8377email: legalanddemocratic@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by: Jason McKenzie, Legal and Democratic Section Head

3.0 **DETAILED PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 Policy Development Scrutiny Committee reviewed Affordable Housing during 2010/11. The final report was agreed at its meeting held on 15 March 2011, which was then forwarded to Cabinet for its consideration on 22 March 2011.
- 3.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed Cabinet's response to the recommendations and agreed to follow up a number of recommendations over a period of time. The reviews have been built into the rolling work programme.
- 3.3 The Scrutiny Committee requested that a further update on recommendations 3 and 4 were provided at the June meeting in 2012.

- 3.4 The recommendations and Cabinet's response were forwarded to Community Services and officers were asked to provide an update. The response is shown at Appendix 1.
- 3.5 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the responses and consider whether it wishes to follow up the recommendations at a later date or it considers them to have been completed.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Financial

- 4.1.1 The Head of Strategic Finance comments that under the Council's service prioritisation initiative it was agreed that target savings of £200k should be achieved through more effective ways of working. This has largely been achieved (with a slight £20k shortfall) and has proven timely as a further £150k has had to be allocated for additional direct service homelessness costs. The action plan attached to this report seeks to fully complete the review into the housing service.
- 4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)
- 4.2.1 The Head of Legal and Property Services comments that there are no legal implications in this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Affordable Housing Review (Recommendations 3 and 4) update

Background Papers

Affordable Housing Review final report
Overview and Scrutiny Committee minutes 26 July 2011

File Reference

None