

**PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING AND ADVICE SERVICES
BEST VALUE REVIEW PROGRESS REPORT**

Report of the Director of Policy

SUMMARY OF REPORT

1. This report advises members of the progress being made to achieve the service improvements detailed in the 2001 Private Sector Housing Best Value Review Improvement Action Plan and the recommendations made by the Housing Inspectorate following their subsequent inspection.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. To refer the report to Social Care, Health and Housing overview of Scrutiny Committee for its consideration.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3. At its meeting in September 2001, Best Value Committee agreed for six-monthly progress reports on Best Value Reviews to be made to Cabinet.

MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4 In June 2001, Private Sector Housing Services were awarded 3 stars by the Housing Inspectorate for the quality of the services being delivered and they further concluded that the service would definitely improve in the future based on the recommendations made in the Best Value Review Improvement Action Plan appendix A.

This report details in Appendix B the progress made to date in achieving the targets set out in the Action Plan.

It is pleasing to note in addressing particular concerns identified by the Review:

- the target for reducing the length of time taken to deliver a Disabled Facilities Grant adaptation by 50 days by March 2003 has already been exceeded. The average time has been reduced from 468 days in 2000/01 to 398 days in 2001/02, an improvement of 72 days.

- the review of the housing register has been completed and has removed approximately 3000 cases from the waiting list.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. The recommendations made in the Best Value Improvement Action plan are being delivered within planned budgets and there are therefore no additional resource implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Disabled Facilities Grants are a mandatory entitlement under the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7. None.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

8. None.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9. None.

Background papers: None