

# WYCOMBE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Cabinet Member for Housing

Councillor Peter Cartwright – Keep Hill and Hicks Farm Ward



**WYCOMBE**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

[www.wycombe.gov.uk](http://www.wycombe.gov.uk)

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Committee Administrator  
Buckinghamshire Partnership Forum  
Bucks County Council  
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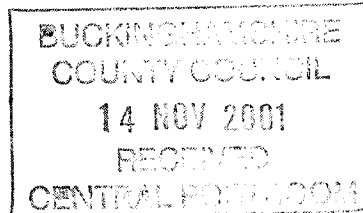
Your Ref:

Our Ref: WEH/SRF

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9 November 2001



Dear Ms Wayland

### Housing Needs and Allocations

Thank you for your letter dated 25 October seeking information from district councils on the process with respect to the identification of needs and allocation of priorities for future housing schemes, primarily with reference to the Housing Corporation's Approved Development Programme (ADP).

We undertake a district-wide housing needs survey through private consultants normally every other year which helps inform the Council's Local Housing Strategy which is published every year. The Strategy receives wide public consultation including views from various partners, both in the form of statutory bodies and voluntary organisations as well as partners for the direct delivery of services, e.g. Housing Associations. An example of such consultation is through the Council's Community Planning process which, this year included a partnership planning day, held at the Kings Centre, High Wycombe on 31 January 2001 which was extremely well attended and included representatives from the following organisations:-

Bucks Health Authority  
Youth Enquiry Service  
The Guinness Trust  
Beacon Housing Association  
Paradigm Housing Group  
Bucks County Council  
Bucks Chilterns University College  
Warden Housing Association  
Buckinghamshire Housing Association  
Kawasaki  
Corporate Environmental Advisory Centre (CEAC)  
Employment Services  
The Berks and Bucks Enterprise Agency

In addition there is a Supported Housing Group composed of the County and each of the districts which identify special needs for housing and support. This enables the production of a document which identifies needs within various categories and assists with the prioritisation of schemes for the forthcoming years. Arising from such work there are now in existence a number of schemes across the county where support for capital funding from the Corporation's ADP has been shared across the districts. This is considered to be the most appropriate way forward because clients can be re-housed in such schemes no matter where they live in the county (i.e. not necessarily in the district within which they currently live). Such schemes rarely receive any nominations from the district council's own waiting list since the clients are identified from other sources, not least the Social Services' own records and various voluntary special needs agencies.



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It has always been recognised by the county and districts that for such schemes revenue support must be identified and agreed at a very early stage otherwise the scheme will not be considered as viable by the Housing Corporation. This revenue support could come, for instance, directly from Social Services or the Health Authority to provide a level of care and support in what is often a shared home environment for such clients. For the future it will be imperative that such arrangements take full consideration of the impending changes under the Supporting People arrangements.

Each council will, of course, in addition have its own capital programme from which it must decide priorities and on occasions it may be possible that the council would provide some contributory capital funding to a scheme (e.g. Sheltered Housing/Afro Caribbean Day Centre scheme newly built on the old Lady Verney High School site which received £337,000). Clearly it is hoped that the County will also make use of its own capital resources to assist provision for special needs clients and with the current consideration of the sale of surplus school sites there could be some opportunities in future for the County to assist directly those clients that it has identified.

I hope you will see from the above that extensive arrangements are already in place to allow partners and other agencies to contribute to the process of identifying the housing needs in the district and armed with this information the district council must ultimately determine the priorities as a housing authority. Given that these schemes are directly provided by housing associations and often have a long lead-in time, it is important that discussions take place at an early stage. Therefore I would suggest that the Bucks Partnership Forum reviews its individual and joint contributions through the existing consultative arrangements to ensure that there is full and appropriate representation.

To assist the Bucks Partnership Forum in this respect, I list below the fora that representation or submission of views would be most appropriate:-

<b>Attendance and/or submission of views</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Wycombe District Housing Forum	Martin Skinner c/o YES, 01494 437373
Community Planning Partnership Days	Charles Meakings c/o WDC, 01494 421980
<b>Submission of Views</b>	
Supported Housing Group	Mrs Chris Flahey, 01494 475283
Councils Community Plan	Charles Meakings 01494 421980
Local Housing Strategy	Robert Blaikie 01494 421654

I hope that you find the contents of this letter helpful and sufficient for your purposes.

Yours sincerely

  
**Peter Cartwright**  
**Cabinet Member for Housing**