COMMITTEE:	**SCRUTINY**
DATE:	**10th JUNE 2002**
SUBJECT:	**USE OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION**
REPORT OF:	**HEAD OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT**
Ward(s):	ALL
Purpose:	To update Scrutiny Committee on the current and future use of temporary accommodation.
Contact:	Janet Canny, Head of Housing Management Telephone 01323 415306 or internally on extension 5306.
Recommendations:	That Members of Scrutiny Committee note the content of this performance report.

1.0	**Background**
1.1	Detailed reports concerning the use of bed and breakfast and other forms of temporary accommodation have previously been considered by Scrutiny Committee on the 29th August and the 12th December 2001.
1.2	It was agreed that additional updates would be made to Scrutiny Committee.
2.0	**Homeless Household Acceptances**

2.1	During 2001/02 there were a range of staffing changes within the Housing Needs team and a number of changes to the mechanisms put in place to manage caseloads and monitor the activity of the team. Further more, extensive training was made available to all Housing Needs staff in terms of the legislation relevant to homelessness duties. The Government also made some changes to the way in which they wished us to evaluate activity in terms of dealing with homeless persons.
2.2	**In 2001/02 414 formal applications for assistance were made and the Council accepted a full duty to assist on 250 of these cases.**
3.0	**Households in Bed and Breakfast Accommodation**
3.1	The use of Bed and Breakfast, as temporary accommodation continues to be minimised. The number of households placed during 2001/02 fell and was maintained. At the 31st March, there were 6 households in Bed and Breakfast.
3.2	Officers are attempting to use Bed and Breakfast only in emergency situations, or where the Council only has very short term housing duties to assist.
4.0	**Implications of the forthcoming changes to the Homeless person legislation**
4.1	There are changes expected to be introduced in July this year to the duties placed upon all Local Authorities in respect of those who are homeless.
4.2	Those types of households, who should be considered as having a 'priority need' are to be extended. There is a widening of those young people to whom the Council may have a duty to assist, together with an increased expectation that all Local Authorities will review the needs of ex-offenders and also the victims of violent crime.

4.3	All Local Authorities are expected to produce a homelessness strategy by summer 2003 detailing comprehensive plans to eliminate the use of bed and breakfast, together with comprehensive plans to prevent homeless from occurring.
4.4	**Officers are currently instigating a range of options to bring into use additional units of self-contained temporary accommodation. This includes the refurbishment to two HMO type properties, one privately and the other Council owned. This will offer an additional 10 units of accommodation.**

4.5	**Furthermore, Officers have been working in conjunction with all supported housing providers to ensure that all opportunities under the Supporting People arrangements are pursued. This will lead to a variety of additional supported housing and other 'floating' support schemes coming on line over the next year.**

4.6	**Floating support offers a more flexible system of support, provided by a range of specialist providers, to be delivered to clients within their own homes. This helps them to maintain their independence, and prevents homelessness from occurring. These support mechanisms also enable new tenants to settle into their new homes, understand their tenancy conditions more effectively and enhances their abilities to maintain their tenancies in the longer term.**

5.0	**Financial Implications**
5.1	During 2001/02, efforts continued to only use Bed and Breakfast accommodation, in emergency situations. As a result the total Temporary Accommodation budget, of £92,000, was underspent by £988.
5.2	It is anticipated that expenditure for this financial year will remain within the budgets set.
6.0	**Summary**
6.1	Members are asked to note the contents of this report.
Janet Canny, Head of Housing Management	
Background Papers: The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows: "More than a Roof: A Report into Tackling Homelessness" – DTLR 2002 To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.	
document/jc.NAF/Scrutiny/100602 – Use of Temporary Accomm - JCC	