

10th June 2005

Rural Homes Cash Priority

Funding for rural housing should be a top priority, says the Malvern Hills Vision 21 Partnership.

The partnership was commenting on the draft Regional Housing Strategy, which has just been published.

This is the issue of affordable homes in the district is likely to remain a significant challenge, says the partnership.

"Inward migration from other affluent parts of the country will continue, as the district is an attractive and safe place in which to live, and particularly in which to retire. This will perpetuate the problem" it says.

"We accept the need to make best use of the existing housing stock and to ensure decent standards are achieved, but urgently require investment in provision of new affordable homes for rent and low-cost ownership.

"Funding of rural schemes should remain a high priority. We welcome the indication that funding will be made available for acquisition of existing priorities as this will be of benefit in our villages."