

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing

Housing Strategy 2025 - 2028

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for a new Housing Strategy. This is in accordance with the Council's Corporate Priority of Housing - 'a good quality home for everyone'.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE to APPROVE the new Housing Strategy

3. Detail

A Housing Strategy is a local authority's vision for housing in its area. It sets out objectives on how the Council will manage and deliver its strategic housing role. It provides a framework against which the authority and relevant partners can deliver their services and create policies on specific housing issues.

Over Summer 2024 consultation was undertaken to inform the key themes and actions within the Housing Strategy. In person consultation meetings were held and an online survey was used. The views of 62 residents were obtained.

Employees from many teams were also consulted, including Housing, Planning, Asset Management and Private Sector Housing.

Following Policy Overview Working Group considering a draft of the strategy in November 2024, further work was completed and Policy Overview Working Group considered an updated version of the strategy in January 2025. The strategy and an Equality Impact Assessment is included in the **Appendix**.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, as it is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising of two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area

5. Updates from Scrutiny

This applies where a policy has been through pre-scrutiny or Policy Overview Working Group.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no financial implications arising from the Housing Strategy. The actions recognised in the strategy can be achieved within existing budgets, mainly contained within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). Any significant budget implications going forward, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There is no statutory requirement for the Council to produce a Housing Strategy. However, an approved Housing Strategy helps the Council to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Housing Regulator and the Social Housing Regulation Act.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable

9. Union Comments

Not applicable

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Background Papers

Nil.