

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Early Intervention and Support (Introduced by the Executive Member for Homes and Housing)	Executive Cabinet	14 February 2019

## HOUSING STRATEGY

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To present the draft housing strategy for consideration and approval to consult with stakeholders.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. That the draft housing strategy be accepted for consultation and presentation to Council for approval.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. The housing strategy has been developed as a Corporate Strategy project. It is based on an evidence base, and aims to sets out the council’s ambitions to ensure that everyone living in the borough has access to the high quality accommodation that they need. The strategy covers the period 2019 to 2024, with an action plan for the first 12 months that will be reviewed and refreshed in coming years.
4. The strategy will be published for consultation with key stakeholders, refined following feedback and presented to full Council for approval.

<b>Confidential report</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	<b>No</b>
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<b>Key Decision?</b> Please bold as appropriate	Yes	<b>No</b>
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<b>Reason</b> Please bold as appropriate	1, a change in service provision that impacts upon the service revenue budget by £100,000 or more	2, a contract worth £100,000 or more
	3, a new or unprogrammed capital scheme of £100,000 or more	4, Significant impact in environmental, social or physical terms in two or more wards

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

#### (If the recommendations are accepted)

5. The housing strategy provides an opportunity to set out in a single document the range and depth of work undertaken by the council in relation to housing. Consulting on the strategy provides the opportunity for partners and other stakeholders to provide feedback and work with the council.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

6. To not consult on the strategy. This was rejected because the consultation provides an opportunity to potentially refine the strategy and to engage with partners on its delivery.

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

7. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities	✓	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	

## BACKGROUND

8. The development of a housing strategy was included as a project in the council's Corporate Strategy approved in November 2017. Work to develop the strategy has been undertaken, including the production of an evidence base to inform and influence the strategy's focus. The development of the strategy has been overseen by a small working group led by the Executive Member (Homes and Housing)

## DRAFT HOUSING STRATEGY

9. The draft housing strategy is set out at Appendix A.
10. The strategy has an overarching aim, which is to:  
"Ensure that everyone in the borough is able to access affordable and good quality housing that suits their needs. The type of tenure and where someone lives will not mean they should have to accept poorer quality or less affordable accommodation."
11. The strategy sets out four priorities:
  - Securing quality across all housing tenures
  - Supporting people to remain independent in their own homes
  - Preventing homelessness
  - Supporting a balanced housing market
12. Each priority includes the context and a summary of the relevant evidence and information about the work that the council already undertakes. Each also includes a series of actions that will be undertaken over the next 12 to 18 months to respond to the issues and opportunities identified.
13. The key actions are then summarised at the end of the strategy in an action plan that will be refreshed after 12 months.

## STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

14. It is planned to undertake consultation with key stakeholders to gather feedback about the draft strategy. Once this has been taken into consideration, the strategy will be finalised and presented to full Council for approval.
15. The consultation will be made available on the council's website and will also include asking for feedback from:
  - Registered providers operating in the borough

- Private sector landlords forum
- Interested community and voluntary groups

16. The consultation will seek general views about the strategy and feedback about the council's ambitions. It will also ask for views on the preferred method for stakeholders becoming and remaining engaged in working with the council and supporting the delivery of the housing strategy.

### IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

17. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	✓
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

### COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

18. No comment

### COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

19. The proposed consultation exercise is appropriate to demonstrate that the Council are being asked to make a fully informed decision when considering the adoption of the proposed policy.

CHRIS SINNOTT  
DIRECTOR (EARLY INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT) /  
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Background Papers		
Document	Date	File
Housing Strategy Evidence Base	24/01/2019	***

Report Author	Ext	Date
Chris Sinnott	5337	24 January 2019