

Report to Housing Select Committee

Date of meeting: 12th January 2016

Portfolio: Housing – Cllr D. Stallan

**Subject: (1) Housing Strategy Key Action Plan 2015
– 12 Month's Progress Report
(2) New Housing Strategy Key Action Plan 2016**



Officer contact for further information:

Alan Hall – Director of Communities (01992 564004)

Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins

Recommendations:

- (1) That the 12-Month Progress Report on the Housing Strategy Key Action Plan 2015, attached as Appendix 1, be considered, with any comments passed to the Housing Portfolio Holder and Director of Communities accordingly; and**
- (2) That a recommendation be made to the Housing Portfolio Holder that the proposed Housing Strategy Key Action Plan for 2016, attached as Appendix 2, be adopted and that progress with the Key Action Plan be monitored on a six-monthly basis by the Select Committee in the normal way.**

Reason for Recommendations:

The current Housing Strategy was due to be updated in 2012 to cover the following three years. However, much of the Housing Strategy relates to the provisions within the Local Plan, and a new Local Plan is currently under consideration by the Council.

Therefore, the Housing Portfolio Holder has previously agreed that the Housing Strategy should not be updated until the Local Plan Preferred Options (Draft Local Plan) has been published but that, in the meantime, an Annual Housing Strategy Key Action Plan should continue to be produced, with progress monitored by the Housing Scrutiny Panel, until the new Housing Strategy is formulated and adopted.

Options considered and rejected:

- (a) Not to produce an updated Key Action Plan
- (b) To include different actions within the Action Plan.

Report:

1. At its meeting in September 2009, the Council's Cabinet adopted its current Housing Strategy. The Housing Strategy assesses the District's current and future housing needs and sets out the Council's approach to meeting those needs.

2. The Strategy also included a Key Action Plan, which set out the proposed actions that would be taken by the Council to contribute towards the achievement of the housing objectives over the first year of the Housing Strategy. When adopting the Housing Strategy, the Cabinet also agreed that Key Action Plans for the Housing Strategy should be produced and updated on an annual basis for approval by the Cabinet. To date, six annual Key Action Plans have been produced.

3. The Cabinet also agreed that progress with the Key Action Plans should be monitored on a 6-monthly basis by the Housing Select Committee and, previously, the Housing Scrutiny Panel, in accordance with their Terms of Reference, which they have done.

4. Although there is no legal or policy requirement, it was originally anticipated that the Housing Strategy would cover a three-year period, and would therefore be updated during 2012 to cover the following three years. However, much of the Housing Strategy relates to the provisions within the Local Plan, and a new Local Plan is currently under consideration by the Council.

5. Therefore, the Housing Portfolio Holder has previously agreed that the Housing Strategy should not be updated until the Draft Local Plan (Preferred Approach) has been published but that, in the meantime, an Annual Housing Strategy Key Action Plan should continue to be produced, with progress monitored by the Housing Scrutiny Panel, until the new Housing Strategy is formulated and adopted.

6. The last Key Action Plan was adopted in February 2015, and the last 6-Month Progress Report for the current Key Action Plan was considered by the Housing Select Committee in June 2015 and the 12-Month Progress Report is attached as Appendix 1, which the Select Committee is asked to consider and to provide any comments to the Housing Portfolio Holder and Director of Communities.

7. A proposed Housing Strategy Key Action Plan for the forthcoming year is also attached as Appendix 2, which the Select Committee is also asked to consider and recommend its adoption (subject to any views of the Select Committee) to the Housing Portfolio Holder.

8. Progress with the Key Action Plan will continue to be monitored on a six-monthly basis by the Housing Scrutiny Panel (or its successor body) in the normal way, commencing July 2016.

Resource Implications:

All of the actions can be delivered within existing budgetary provisions.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The actions are covered by a number of statutes.

Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:

A number of the actions will result in a safer and cleaner environment, particularly those actions relating to development, many of which include environmental and energy efficiency measures to the new properties

Consultation Undertaken:

None.

Background Papers:

None.

Risk Management:

The risks of individual actions will be managed in accordance with the Council's Risk Management Framework

Key Decision Reference (Y/N): No

Due Regard Record

This page shows **which groups of people are affected** by the subject of this report. It sets out **how they are affected** and how any **discrimination** they experience can be eliminated. It also includes information about how **access to the service(s)** subject to this report can be improved for the different groups of people; and how they can be assisted to **understand each other better** as a result of the subject of this report.

S149 Equality Act 2010 requires that due regard must be paid to this information when considering the subject of this report.

The adoption of the Key Action Plan does not involve the introduction of any new policies in itself.

Any actions to be undertaken requiring policy or member decisions will be assessed for equality implications.