

Report to Housing Scrutiny Panel

Date of meeting: 9th February 2015

Portfolio: Housing – Cllr D. Stallan

**Subject: New Housing Strategy Key Action Plan
2015/16**

Officer contact for further information:

Alan Hall – Director of Communities (01992 564004)

Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins



Decision:

That a recommendation be made to the Housing Portfolio Holder that the proposed Housing Strategy Key Action Plan for 2015/16, attached as an Appendix, be adopted and that progress with the Key Action Plan be monitored on a six-monthly basis by the Housing Scrutiny Panel (or successor body) in the normal way.

Reason for decision:

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, five 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 Scrutiny Panel, in accordance with its Terms of Reference, which it has 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 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.
6. The last Key Action Plan was adopted in Summer 2013, and the last 6-Month Progress Report for the current Key Action Plan was considered by the Housing Scrutiny Panel in October 2014.
7. Accordingly, a proposed Housing Strategy Key Action Plan for the forthcoming year is attached as an Appendix, which the Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider and recommend its adoption (subject to any views of the Scrutiny Panel) 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 2015.

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 efficient measures to the new properties

Consultation Undertaken:

None.

Background Papers:

None.

Risk Management:

The risk of adopting the Housing Strategy are minimal. 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.