



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND DECISION MAKING

SCRUTINY
COUNCIL

8 November 2018
27 November 2018

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

HOUSING STRATEGY 2018 - 2023

Report of Director (Community Services)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the Housing Strategy 2018 – 2023 for Council approval.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 2.1 Approves the Housing Strategy.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 There is no longer an obligation for councils to produce a housing strategy, and the last adopted strategy covered the period 2010 to 2013. However producing a Housing Strategy enables the council to make clear the priorities for the housing service going forward, and how it links to other strategic objectives such as the Local Plan and the HRA Business Plan.
- 3.2 The Housing Strategy links directly with the Corporate Plan and contributes to all three priorities for people, places and prosperity. Within these themes, the Housing Strategy identifies key issues affecting the housing supply in the Borough today, and the initiatives taken by the council working in partnership with stakeholders to deliver better outcomes for our residents.
- 3.3 The 3 key issues identified in the Housing Strategy are:
- Availability of affordable housing
 - Support for People's needs and aspirations
 - Housing Standards

- 3.4 Within the strategy, the council sets out what measures it will take to meet the challenges presented by the key issues. The strategy cannot be seen in isolation as it is dependent on working with partners to achieve the ends effectively and economically, to avoid duplication and provide a joined up, holistic service to help residents of the Borough achieve their aspirations.
- 3.5 Consultation is currently underway with key partners and any minor changes will be incorporated into the final Housing Strategy and identified when presented to Council.
- 3.6 The Scrutiny Commission endorsed the Housing Strategy at their meeting on the 8th November 2018.

4. EXEMPTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROCEDURE RULES

- 4.1 To be taken in open session.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (AW)

- 5.1 The housing strategy contained in the appendix has listed key aspirations and goals for the council, all of which have potential financial implications. These are not costed within this report, but will be reflected in the HRA investment plan or General fund budgets which are subject to separate member approval.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (MR)

- 6.1 Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 empowers the Council to do anything which it considers likely to achieve the promotion of the social wellbeing of its area
- 6.2 The reasoning in the report justifying the approval of a housing strategy would seem to fall squarely within that power

7. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Contained within the body of the report.

8. CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Key partners and stakeholders were contacted directly for comments on the Housing Strategy, and the consultation was also advertised on the Council's website under the "Have Your Say" section.
- 8.2 The consultation received 5 responses, 3 via e mail to the Strategic Housing and Enabling Officer and 2 through the Have Your Say link. The main issues raised are:
- How the work around housing and design standards will be taken forward
 - How the council will work with our partners to ensure the right accommodation and support is available for vulnerable people.
 - How the council will work with Registered Providers to ensure the supply of affordable housing can be maximised.
 - How communication can be improved with people in social housing.
- The Housing Strategy is concerned with setting the high level objectives for the service, and the feedback on how these objectives will be achieved will form part of

an Action Plan which will follow on from the adoption of the Strategy. All of the very useful comments received will be incorporated into the Action Plan.

9. RISK IMPLICATIONS

9.1

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Failure to adopt a Housing Strategy means that the council does not have a clear set of priorities for its housing service	Adoption of the Housing Strategy and incorporation into developing policy in other departments.	Strategic Housing and Enabling Officer

10. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 This Housing Strategy is concerned with ensuring that residents in the Borough are able to meet their housing needs and aspirations. This is especially relevant for people who cannot meet their needs in the open market, and includes consideration of people from vulnerable groups, and those living in rural areas.

11. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications
- Environmental implications
- ICT implications
- Asset Management implications
- Procurement implications
- Human Resources implications
- Planning implications
- Data Protection implications
- Voluntary Sector

Background papers: The Housing Strategy 2018 - 2023
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