

Chichester District Council

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16 January 2018

Housing Strategy Update

1. Contacts

Report Author:

Linda Grange - Housing Enabling Manager

Telephone: 01243 534582 E-mail: lgrange@chichester.gov.uk

2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That the committee considers and comments on progress made in delivering the Council's Housing Strategy for the period 2013-2018 as set out in the Housing Strategy Delivery Plan at Appendix 1.**
- 2.2. That the committee notes that a new Housing Strategy will be developed as set out in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.2 below.**

3. Background

- 3.1. In September 2013 the Council adopted a new housing strategy covering the period 2013-18 and a capital investment plan to support the priorities set out in the strategy. The strategy took account of the main local and national issues likely to affect Chichester district over the strategy period, identified the key challenges and explained how the council intends to use its resources to address housing needs. Detailed targets for delivering the objectives were set out in the Housing Delivery Plan, and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee was requested to review the plan and its progress annually.
- 3.2. A mid-term review of the strategy was undertaken in 2015 which concluded that the four key priorities were still relevant and the affordable housing targets should be retained. An updated Housing Strategy Delivery Plan was agreed to reflect priorities over the remaining strategy period and an update on progress is attached at appendix 1.

4. Proposal

- 4.1. The Housing Strategy is now due to be revised and it is proposed that a new housing strategy be developed in 2018 to take account of changes in national policy as well as new issues and challenges. It is proposed that the Housing Service has just one, rather than three separate strategies and that the new housing strategy incorporates the Homelessness Strategy and the Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy in one document.
- 4.2. The new strategy will be informed by the findings of both the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment undertaken by GL Hearne, due to be finalised shortly and recommendations from the Task and Finish Group currently

examining the quality of affordable housing stock, effective use of existing stock and future supply.

5. Alternatives Considered

- 5.1. To not update the Housing Strategy. The existing strategy no-longer reflects current issues and strategic direction needs to be reassessed in light of the changing environment. The demand for this service is not expected to decrease and a strategic approach to longer term provision is recommended.
- 5.2. To retain three separate strategies. The current Homelessness Strategy is not due to be updated until 2020 however it now needs to be updated to take account of the Homelessness Reduction Act. The Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy is due to be updated in 2021 but also needs to be reviewed to reflect recent changes in legislation and government policy.

6. Resource and Legal Implications

- 6.1. Developing new strategies takes up significant staffing resources. Encompassing the three strategies in one document will rationalise the process and result in a more focused document, whilst ensuring the Council meets its statutory responsibilities and makes the most effective use of its resources.

7. Consultation

- 7.1. Comprehensive consultation will be undertaken with all relevant stakeholders.

8. Community Impact and Corporate Risks

- 8.1. An adopted Housing Strategy has a positive impact on local people and communities through the provision of affordable housing and delivery of the housing strategy objectives.

9. Other Implications

	Yes	No
Crime and Disorder		X
Climate Change		X
Human Rights and Equality Impact	X	
Safeguarding and Early Help		X
Other (please specify): eg biodiversity		X

10. Appendices

- 10.1 Housing Strategy Delivery Plan – Update on progress January 2018

11. Background Papers

None