

Public Document Pack

JOHN WARD

Director of Corporate Services

Contact: Democratic Services

Email: democraticservices@chichester.gov.uk

East Pallant House

1 East Pallant

Chichester

West Sussex

PO19 1TY

Tel: 01243 785166

www.chichester.gov.uk



A meeting of the **Cabinet** will be held in Committee Room 2 - East Pallant House on **Tuesday 3 March 2020 at 9.30 am**

MEMBERS: Mrs E Lintill (Chairman), Mrs S Taylor (Vice-Chairman), Mr M Bell, Mr R Briscoe, Mrs N Graves, Mrs P Plant and Mr P Wilding

AGENDA

6 **Housing Strategy 2020-25** (Pages 1 - 3)

Background Paper for agenda item 6 – online only.

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Housing Strategy Impact Assessment

1. Equality Impact Statement

The Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) requires public bodies to have due regard to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people when carrying out their duties.

Author/editor/assessor	Ivan Western, Housing Delivery Manager
Partners/decision makers/implementers, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDC Housing Service • Key housing stakeholders including Registered Provider Partners and other voluntary sector partners
Start date	April 2019
End date	March 2020
Relevance	The Policy aims are referred to in the box below; from this it will be apparent that the housing strategy is specifically concerned with addressing disadvantages which specific groups are likely to experience in relation to the housing market. So in general terms the aim of the housing strategy is to address inequalities that arise from the housing market. Specific examples of this are referred to below.
Policy Aims	<p>The purpose of the housing strategy is to plan and implement a range of housing market interventions which aim to protect and enhance the ability to secure and sustain suitable housing within the market.</p> <p>The policy is needed because in the absence of interventions in a number of areas many less able or disadvantaged households would not be able to meet their basic housing requirements. The importance of this role is underpinned by a range of statutory duties which fall to the District Council as the strategic housing authority.</p> <p>Very broadly the Housing Strategy seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and reduce homelessness • Improve poor housing standards and support adaptations for those that require them • Improve the supply of affordable housing <p>Progress against each of these objectives is measured against benchmarks defined in the housing strategy.</p>
Available evidence	<p>The Council collects data to monitor the demand for and impact of services which it provides or commissions. This includes many of the groups whose status is 'protected' by the Equality Act including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Gender • Sexual orientation • Disability • Ethnicity

Evidence gaps	None, though in many cases the implementation of reviews and initiatives referred to in the strategy may require further detailed consideration of equality implications.
Involvement and consultation	Details of the consultation undertaken are included in the main body of the report.
What is the actual/likely impact?	There are a number of specific areas whereby groups sharing 'protected groups' within the meaning of the Equality Act face specific disadvantages in the housing market. Examples policies which aim to address needs which disproportionately affect particular 'protected' groups include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age: specific recommendations in relation to the growing proportion of older people • Disability: a range of policy approaches and initiatives recognizing the individual and collective difficulties which people with disabilities face in the housing market.
Monitoring and review	Implementation of the strategy will be subject to monitoring through service plans, formal reviews and specific scrutiny in areas in where more detailed proposals are brought forward through the governance process.
Action Plan	As above
Decision making and quality control	The Housing Strategy will be subject to further consideration by Cabinet and adoption by the Council

2. Safeguarding and Early Help

The overall impact of the housing strategy is to strengthen our approach to protecting and enhancing opportunities for the most vulnerable households. There are two areas which are especially important in this regard:

- The second strategic priority to improve the offer to homeless households who require temporary placement. The rationale for this approach reflects the need to maintain families' support networks and avoid the risk of isolation and exploitation which can arise when vulnerable households are placed in short term accommodation far from their home area.
- The third strategic priority relating to rough sleeping. Our strategy recognises that individual rough sleepers frequently have complex needs which are aggravated by the lack of stable accommodation. The focus is to work with a range of agencies to prevent rough sleeping and to mitigate the consequences of harm which rough sleeping inevitably involves.

3. Health and Wellbeing

Housing is a basic requirement and a key determinant of health and wellbeing in both a physical and social sense. Ultimately all elements of the strategy aim to underpin good housing conditions, and with it the safety and security which a stable home provides. The fourth strategic priority which concerns Housing Conditions directly addresses this by focussing specifically on issues such as:

- Housing fitness especially in regard to the private rented sector and houses in multiple occupation
- Fuel poverty and thermal efficiency of homes
- Adaptations for people with disabilities.

4. Crime and Disorder

The incidence of rough sleeping, the reduction of which forms part of the strategy, has implications for crime and disorder within the District. We are also aware that incidents involving rough sleepers and the street community consume a disproportionate amount of Police and emergency services resources. Rough sleeping can contribute to community tensions and exacerbate low level crime, anti-social behaviour in a variety of ways:

- Rough sleepers are disproportionately likely to be victims of low level crime or harassment. In some cases rough sleepers are exploited for criminal purposes
- Incidents involving rough sleepers, whether as victims or perpetrators of nuisance consume significant amounts of Police resources
- Understandably the incidence of rough sleeping in the City Centre is a concern for members as well as the local businesses community and in some cases we are aware that some members of the public may feel intimidated by the presence of rough sleepers.

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