

COUNCIL

15 SEPTEMBER 2020

REFERENCE FROM CABINET

A.2 HOUSING STRATEGY 2020-2025: “DELIVERING HOMES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF LOCAL PEOPLE”

(Report prepared by Ian Ford)

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To enable the Council to review and approve the Housing Strategy 2020-2025: “Delivering Homes to meet the needs of Local People”.

BACKGROUND / CURRENT POSITION

On 26 June 2020 Cabinet considered a Report and an Appendix from the Council's Portfolio Holder for Housing on this matter which are attached as to this reference report as **Appendices A and B**.

At that meeting on 26 June 2020 (Minute 23 refers) the Cabinet was aware that local authorities were not required by Government to have a formal housing strategy, but that they were expected to adopt a strategic approach to housing in their local areas in order to deliver a thriving housing market and address local needs. To that end a draft Housing Strategy had been agreed by Cabinet at its meeting held in July 2019 in order to enable consultation to be undertaken seeking the views of the public and the Council's partners.

The Council's Policy Framework, as set out in Article 4 of the Constitution provides that the plan and strategy which comprises the Housing Investment Programme (Housing Revenue Account Business Plan and Housing Strategy) must be approved or adopted by the full Council.

Members recalled that the strategy identified four key strategic housing priorities as follows:

- Delivering homes to meet the needs of local people
- Reducing and preventing homelessness and rough sleeping
- Making the best use of and improving existing housing
- Supporting people in their homes and communities.

It was reported that it was the first of those strategic housing priorities that had given the Strategy its title as by the end of the life of the strategy, it was expected that there would be new council housing being delivered in the District for the first time in a generation.

Having considered the contents of the proposed Strategy and in order to enable the Strategy to be submitted to full Council for its formal adoption, the Cabinet **resolved** that –

- (a) Cabinet recommends to Full Council that the new Housing Strategy 2020-2025 and its accompanying Delivery Plan be formally adopted; and*

(b) the Housing Portfolio Holder be authorised to monitor performance against the Delivery Plan with periodic updates being presented to Cabinet following the Strategy's adoption by Full Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Full Council approves and formally adopts the Housing Strategy 2020-2025: "Delivering Homes to meet the needs of Local People", as set out in Appendix B to this reference report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – REPORT OF THE HOUSING PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO CABINET MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2020

APPENDIX B – HOUSING STRATEGY 2020/25