



Report To: Housing Portfolio Holder
Lead Officer: Director of Housing

15 March 2017

Interim Housing Strategy Statement 2017

Purpose

1. To approve the Interim Housing Strategy Statement 2017 and agree the proposals for the new Housing Strategy 2018.
2. This is not a key decision but has been brought before the Housing Portfolio Holder for formal adoption.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Housing Portfolio Holder approves the Interim Housing Strategy Statement 2017 set out at Appendix A and agrees the proposals for a joint City/South Cambs Housing Strategy from 2018.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. In the absence of a new Housing Strategy, the Interim Housing Strategy Statement provides a 'holding' statement for the Council that sets out the current context for housing within the District of South Cambridgeshire.

Background

5. The current Housing Strategy ran from 2012-2016 and was due to be updated last year. Since its publication, the housing sector has been going through a period of unprecedented change, with many policy changes still to be implemented. It was therefore decided that an Interim Statement should be published as a holding position whilst the Council takes stock and evaluates the emerging policy changes.

Considerations

6. The aim of the Interim Housing Strategy Statement is to:
 - Highlight the achievements of the past Strategy
 - Set out the current context for housing in the District
 - Outline an indicative timetable and actions for developing the new Housing Strategy.
7. Given the closer working relationships with Cambridge City and the key challenges and opportunities that face both Councils, it is proposed to develop a joint Housing Strategy for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire that will provide a clear strategic vision for housing in the area. This will take into account national policy changes as well as the changing environment in terms of the Combined Authority and the devolution offer for housing.

8. As well as taking the overarching strategic view from both local authorities and the Combined Authority, the joint Housing Strategy will continue to focus on the local context, acknowledging the key issues and actions unique to each local authority.

Options

9. The Portfolio Holder is requested to approve the Interim Housing Strategy Statement, with the view to developing a new joint Housing Strategy with Cambridge City Council in the coming year.

Implications

10. There are no significant implications.

Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)

11. As the Interim Housing Strategy Statement is a 'holding' statement that sets out the current position, it was not necessary to undertake a consultation exercise. In development of the new Housing Strategy full consultation will be undertaken with Members, parishes and other key stakeholders.

Effect on Strategic Aims

12. The Interim Housing Strategy Statement is important for all four of the Council's main strategic aims

Background Papers

None.

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