

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 17 NOVEMBER 2015

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF COMMUNITY SCRUTINY

THE DRAFT HOUSING AND HEALTH STRATEGY 2016-2021

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To report to Members the draft Housing and Health Strategy 2016-2021 for their comments prior to public consultation.

RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

That:

(A)	the draft Housing and Health Strategy 2016-21 be supported for the purpose of public consultation.
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1.0 Background

- 1.1 The current Housing Strategy concludes in 2016 and therefore a review and drafting has taken place of a new Housing and Health Strategy 2016-2021.
- 1.2 The draft Housing and Health Strategy 2016-21 is not a statutory document but it is a strategy which sets out the current position, issues and tasks for the Council in delivering a sustainable housing offer to residents.
- 1.3 The draft Housing and Health Strategy 2016-21 covers all aspects of Housing and will be subject to public consultation for a 12 week period before going to Executive and Full Council for endorsement.
- 1.4 The draft Housing and Health Strategy 2016-21 has been prepared as a light touch document as there are many changes taking place in the housing sector at this time which may need to be inserted as they go through ministerial processes.

2.0 Report

2.1 The draft Housing and Health Strategy 2016-21 contains a Vision, Objectives, Strategic Objectives, Short-term tasks and timescales.

2.2 The Vision is set out below:

- 'To work in partnership to plan for, make best use of and facilitate housing supply and to support and sustain residents in appropriate housing'

2.3 There are 4 key objectives that the Strategy seeks to deliver as set out below:

- Objective 1: Enable affordable housing delivery through partnership working and maximising suitably located and constructed development opportunities, whilst ensuring the best use of the existing stock.
- Objective 2: Focus on meeting the housing needs of active and frail older persons.
- Objective 3: Work to meet the needs of vulnerable people in the housing market
- Objective 4: Seek to support rural communities in meeting their local housing needs.

2.4 Objective 1. This explores the housing market in East Herts and uses some of the information provided by the District Wide Housing Needs Survey. The focus is on continuing to provide an availability of good quality affordable homes across all tenures.

2.5 Objective 2. This highlights a sector of the community who are growing and have specific housing requirements. Older people and older frail people are seeking smaller units with support as and when required. There is a need through the Strategy to focus on this sector and what can be achieved by the Council with partners in delivering an attractive downsizing offer.

2.6 Objective 3. There are vulnerable people in the East Herts area who need support through finding a home, sustaining a tenancy

and accessing any support services they require. They are not a large group but they are need of support and signposting in sustaining a home. There are many excellent projects and service providing this support in the District.

2.7 Objective 4. East Herts has a large rural hinterland and is the largest rural area in Hertfordshire. Residents want to stay in their local area but offer cannot find across the tenures a suitable property which results in out migration. East Herts Council supports the Neighbourhood Planning Process and this looks in some detail at housing requirements. Parish Housing Needs Survey are also an option which can be used to provide local information and evidence.

2.8 The intended timetable for consultation for the draft Housing and Health Strategy 2016-2021 is set out below:

17 November – Scrutiny Committee

20 November- start public consultation period

12 February – end of public consultation period

8 March – Housing and Health Strategy to Executive

18 May- Housing and Health Strategy to Council.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 Members provide any comments and amendments and agree that the draft Housing and Health Strategy 2016-21 can go forward for public consultation.

Background Papers – None

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