

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 8 MARCH 2016

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

THE DRAFT HOUSING AND HEALTH STRATEGY 2016-2021

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To report to Members the consultation feedback and amendments to the draft Housing and Health Strategy 2016-2021 for their comments prior to adoption at Council.

RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL: that

(A)	the Housing and Health Strategy 2016-21, as now submitted, be adopted as a key document.
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1.0 Background

- 1.1 The current Housing Strategy concludes in 2016 and therefore a review was undertaken of the Strategy and a revised document was agreed for public consultation by the Scrutiny Committee. This document is new Housing and Health Strategy 2016-2021.
- 1.2 The 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 Housing and Health Strategy 2016-21 covers all aspects of Housing and was subject to public consultation period of 12 weeks closing on Friday 12 February 2016.
- 1.4 Prior to consultation the document went before Community Scrutiny for comment and discussion, was made public on the website for consultation.

- 1.5 Furthermore, a Stakeholder seminar was held to highlight the document and key Housing and Health issues on Friday 8th January with Mark Prisk MP as the keynote speaker.
- 1.6 The next stage for the Strategy is to come before Executive to report the consultation responses and any amendments to the Strategy prior to going to Council for endorsement.
- 2.0 Report
- 2.1 The 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.
- 2.2 The Housing and Health Strategy 2016-21 contains a Vision, Objectives, Strategic Objectives, Short-term tasks and timescales.
- 2.3 The Vision is set out below:
 - 2.31 'To work in partnership to plan for, make best use of and facilitate housing supply and to support and sustain residents in appropriate housing'
- 2.4 There are 4 key objectives that the Strategy seeks to deliver as set out below:
 - 2.41 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.
 - 2.42 Objective 2: Focus on meeting the housing needs of active and frail older persons.
 - 2.43 Objective 3: Work to meet the needs of vulnerable people in the housing market
 - 2.44 Objective 4: Seek to support rural communities in meeting their local housing needs.
- 2.5 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.

- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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.
- 2.8 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 often 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 Surveys are also an option which can be used to provide local information and evidence.
- 2.9 The next steps for the Housing and Health Strategy 2016-2021 is set out below:

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 Consultation Response and Amendments

- 3.1 The document received limited responses but those that did respond provided useful comments on areas which they felt should be strengthened in the Strategy.
- 3.2 Comments from organisations were received from the Homes and Communities Agency, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Health and Community Services of Hertfordshire County Council and the Public Health Department of Hertfordshire County Council.
- 3.3 Comments were also received from a small number of residents and a Parish Council representative and are greatly appreciated.
- 3.4 The consultation responses and the response of East Herts

Council and any changes made to the Strategy are outlined in **Essential Reference Paper 'C'**.

4.0 Implications/Consultations

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

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 Members provide any comments and amendments and agree that the Housing and Health Strategy 2016-21 can go forward to Full Council for adoption.

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