

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE – 23 MAY 2017

---

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

HOUSING AND HEALTH STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2017

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

---

**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To report to Members the progress made in 2016/17 in delivering the objectives stemming from the Housing and Health Strategy Action Plan 2016-2021 to enable comment and consideration of futures ways of achieving the objectives going forward.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERFORMANCE, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY: That**

<b>(A)</b>	The progress made in 2016/17 in delivering the objectives stemming from the Housing and Health Strategy Action Plan 2016-2021, be noted; and
<b>(B)</b>	Suggestions regarding ways to achieve the objectives detailed in the Action Plan are forwarded to the Head of Housing and Health for consideration.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Housing and Health Strategy 2016-2021 was published in 2016 and since then the council and its partners have been working to deliver the associated Action Plan.

1.2 The Housing and Health Strategy 2016-2021 is a high level strategy and the action plan looks to aid the Strategic Objectives to:

- enable affordable housing delivery through partnership working and maximise suitably located and constructed development opportunities, whilst ensuring the best use of existing stock
- focus on meeting the housing needs of active and frail older persons

- work to meet the needs of vulnerable people in the housing market
- seek to support rural communities in meeting their local housing needs.

## 2.0 Delivery in 2016/17

2.1 This report highlights progress for each of the Strategic Objectives. Full details are contained in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**. Key achievements in 2016/17 are highlighted below.

2.2 First, with regard to *Strategic Objective 1: Enable affordable housing delivery through partnership working and maximise suitably located and constructed development opportunities, whilst ensuring the best use of existing stock*, the Housing and Planning teams have worked closely on ensuring that new affordable housing is delivered effectively in the District.

2.3 Achievements in 2016/17 include:

- updated Affordable Housing Policy included in the draft District Plan so as to clearly lay out the council's expectations of the quantity and type of affordable housing included in private developments
- supporting the Rural Housing Enabler based at the Community Development Agency for Hertfordshire to commence a programme of research into the need for affordable homes in rural parishes
- delivering a new affordable housing units – 200 delivered through housing associations in 2016/17.

2.4 *Strategic Objective 2: Focus on meeting the housing needs of active and frail older persons:*

- liaison with Hertfordshire County Council to consider older persons' needs; this working is on-going
- grant funding for ten new affordable homes being developed by Network Housing at Gladstone Road, Ware. This scheme is due for completion in 2017.
- Housing for Older Persons Policy included in the draft District Plan.

2.5 *Strategic Objective 3: Work to meet the needs of vulnerable people in the housing market:*

- a checklist of key housing hazards has been drawn up and provided to Hertfordshire Council for use by their professionals when visiting vulnerable residents. This is helping both East Herts Council and the County target interventions.

2.6 *Strategic Objective 4: Seek to support rural communities in meeting their local housing needs:*

- a Parish Housing Needs Survey of Walkern parish was carried out by the CDA
- an Affordable Housing Information sheet has been provided to Planning Policy to aid Rural Neighbourhood Planning Groups when seeking advice.

3.0 Priorities for 2017/18

3.1 The priorities for 2017/18 to deliver the overall Strategic Objectives include:

- To continue to deliver a strong pipeline of Affordable Homes.
- To work with partners such as Hertfordshire County Council and Registered Providers on meeting the needs of Older and Vulnerable People in the District.
- To work with Health partners to co-ordinate projects which maximise health and housing opportunities.
- To implement the Homelessness Reduction Act.

3.2 These actions are included in the table in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.

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'**.

4.2 Members to consider and comment on the progress made to date.

Background Papers

None.

Contact Member: Councillor Eric Buckmaster, Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing.  
[eric.buckmaster@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:eric.buckmaster@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Jonathan Geall, Head of Housing and Health, Extn: 1594. [jonathan.geall@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.geall@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Louise Harris, Housing Strategy and Development Manager, Extn: 1602.  
[louise.harris@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:louise.harris@eastherts.gov.uk)