

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

PERFORMANCE, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
22 MAY 2018

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND

HOUSING AND HEALTH STRATEGY ACTION PLAN UPDATE 2018

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To report to members the progress made in 2017/18 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 COMMITTEE: That:

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| (A) | Members' note the progress made in 2017/18 in delivering the objectives stemming from the Housing and Health Strategy Action Plan 2016-2021. |
| (B) | Suggestions regarding ways to achieve the objectives in the Action Plan be 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 2017/18

2.1 This report highlights progress for each of the Strategic Objectives. Full details are contained in **Essential Reference Paper "B"**. Key achievements in 2017/18 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.

Achievements in 2017/18 include:

- Affordable Housing Policy included in the District Plan that clearly sets out the Council's expectations of the quantity and type of affordable housing included in private developments
- Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance for Affordable

Housing going out for consultation.

- Delivering new affordable housing units – 162 delivered through Registered Providers in 2017/18.

2.3 *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 work is on-going
- Policy on specialist housing for older and vulnerable people included in the District Plan.
- Policy on accessible and adaptable homes included in the District Plan
- Report on downsizing presented at East Herts Housing and Health Conference and Councillor Wellbeing Meeting. Action plan to address under-occupation developed from report.
- Additional age restricted new build dwellings delivered – four units in Gladstone Road, Ware and two units in South Street, Bishops Stortford

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

- The checklist of key housing hazards drawn up and provided to Hertfordshire Council for use by their professionals when visiting vulnerable residents.

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

- Responses provided to requests for information in support of Neighbourhood Plans for Walkern, Braughing and Standon.

- Community Led Housing Project Report commissioned and delivered in partnership with Uttlesford, Epping Forest and Harlow.

3.0 Priorities for 2018/19

3.1 The priorities for 2018/19 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 documents:

None

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