

For publication

Housing Strategy Consultation (H000)

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	10 th September 2019
Cabinet portfolio:	Housing
Report by:	Liz Cook Assistant Director Housing

For publication

1.0 **Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To consider and approve the draft Housing Strategy (2019-2023) for wider consultation.

2.0 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Cabinet consider the draft housing strategy 2019- 2023 and subject to further comment, approve the document for wider consultation.
- 2.2 That following the completion of the consultation a final Housing Strategy is brought back to Cabinet and full Council for adoption.

3.0 **Background**

- 3.1 The purpose of the Housing Strategy (attached as Appendix A) is to provide a framework for the delivery of housing related programmes and initiatives where the Council can play an active role.

- 3.2 The draft strategy was prepared from April 2019 to July 2019 to cover the same time period as the Council Plan 2019-2023 and demonstrate how housing can deliver towards the Council's priorities.
- 3.3 Prior to adoption the strategy needs a consultation process to ensure engagement in from relevant council departments, tenants and local stakeholders to ensure that all the relevant activity the authority is planning over the next four years is included.
- 3.4 The strategy is set out under three key objectives:
- 3.4.1 **Delivery** - ensuring that increased new housing provision meets the needs of current and future residents of Chesterfield to provide a home for every stage of life
 - 3.4.2 **Quality**– Whilst a lot of Government focus is placed on new build supply the vast majority of the housing stock is already in place. The council will utilise internal and external resources to ensure that as many homes as possible in all tenures are of decent quality
 - 3.4.3 **People** – Ensuring that the needs of all groups to access and sustain housing appropriate for their needs in Chesterfield
- 3.5 The strategy aims to be concise and accessible to a wide audience. It highlights in broad terms what the council considers to be the key issues and what it can do to tackle them. In taking the strategy forward these matters can be explored further with partners and other stakeholders in order to share ideas and ensure a common understanding of expectations and responsibilities.

3.6 The strategy action plan will be fully completed following the consultation process to ensure all appropriate housing activity and work can be included.

3.7 The requirement for a local authority to have a Housing Strategy was removed following deregulation in 2014. Many local authorities have continued to produce housing strategies to set out their housing agendas and priorities for the years ahead. Following deregulation local authorities Housing Strategies have changed from detailed statements of resources and actions to documents setting out their direction of travel and basis for action and intervention.

3.8 The consultation programme is set out in **Appendix B**.

4.0 **Financial Implications**

4.1 The Housing Strategy provides the overall strategic framework for the Council to support the activities relating to new supply, existing homes and providing support to access housing within the Borough. Consequently, the preparation of the Housing Strategy has no direct financial implication for the Council, although new activities brought forward under the framework may require resourcing in the future.

5.0 **Equalities**

5.1 An equalities impact assessment has been completed and is attached as **Appendix C**. Consulting on the draft Housing Strategy will not have a disproportionate impact on any group with a protected characteristic. The equality impact of the strategy will be reviewed alongside and informed by the consultation.

6.0 **Risk Management**

Description of the	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
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Risk					
There is a risk that the Council's approach to supporting housing growth and investment in new and existing stock will lack focus and be fragmented in the absence of a Housing Strategy	L	L	The Housing Strategy provides a clear link between housing issues and the Council's policy/action response. The Strategy provides a framework for the development of new programmes and initiatives	L	L
The ability of the Council to make the case for housing investment is reduced in the absence of a Housing Strategy	M	L	The Housing Strategy ensures demonstration of a strategic fit when preparing business cases for funding	L	L

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 That Cabinet consider the draft housing strategy 2019- 2023 and subject to further comment, approve the document for wider consultation.
- 7.2 That following the completion of the consultation a final Housing Strategy is brought back to Cabinet and full Council for adoption.

8.0 Reasons for recommendations

8.1 To progress the adoption of the Housing Strategy 2019-23.

Decision information

Key decision number	890
Wards affected	All
Links to Council Plan priorities	<p>The Housing Strategy outlines how housing can play a role in delivering the following Council Plan objectives:</p> <p>Making Chesterfield a thriving borough</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enabling the completion of 1000 homes• As a partner in Waterside enable 314 apartments• Increase the number of residents living in our town centres <p>Improving quality of life for local people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build or acquire a minimum of 100 new council homes• Ensure 100% of our council homes continue to meet decency• Identify and reduce the number of poor quality private sector houses• Explore policy changes which could reduce the number of empty homes• Support 1,450 vulnerable people a year to maintain independent living via our Careline and Neighbourhoods Services• Increase homeless prevention <p>Providing value for money services</p> <p>Work with partners to enable more efficient use of the Council's properties</p>

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Document information

Report author	Contact number/email
James Crouch	345150
Background documents	
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.	
N/A	
Appendices to the report	
Appendix A	Draft Housing Strategy
Appendix B	Housing Strategy Consultation Plan
Appendix C	Equalities Impact Assessment