

For publication (H000)

Housing Strategy 2024-2027

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| Meeting: | Council |
| Date: | 24 April 2024 |
| Cabinet portfolio: | Cabinet Member for Housing |
| Directorate: | Housing Services |
| For publication | |

1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 To seek Council approval of the Chesterfield Housing Strategy 2024-2027.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Chesterfield Housing Strategy 2024-2027 be adopted by Council.

2.2 That authority be delegated to the Service Director- Housing, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to make minor amendments to the Housing Strategy as and when appropriate.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

3.1 The purpose of the Housing Strategy 2024-2027 (attached as **Appendix 1**) is to provide an overarching framework for the delivery of housing related programmes and initiatives where the Council can play an active role.

4.0 Report details

This report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 16 April, 2024 where it was resolved that the report and its recommendations be supported and referred to Council for approval.

4.1 The Housing Strategy 2024-2027 will play a role in supporting the delivery of the Council Plan vision of 'putting our communities first' and the priorities of 'making Chesterfield a thriving borough' and 'improving the quality of life for local people'.

4.2 The Strategy, set out in Appendix 1, details the housing and housing related activity of the Council in response to the national and local strategic context, local issues affecting demand for housing and housing services locally.

4.3 The Strategy sets this out under an overall vision and seven priorities:

Vision: 'Chesterfield is a great place to live; there is a choice of good quality homes, a pleasant environment, and strong communities that can support people's wellbeing and aspirations'

Priorities

- Maintaining new build supply
- Delivery of affordable homes
- Improving the quality of existing homes and environments
- Climate change and decarbonisation
- Implementing regulatory housing reforms
- Specialist and supported accommodation
- Tackling homelessness and rough sleeping

Housing Strategy 2024- 2027 Consultation

4.4 A series of consultation events were held during the summer and autumn of 2023 to identify residents' housing priorities to feed into the development of the new Housing Strategy. Sessions were held with staff, tenants, councillors, and online surveys were carried out to gather views and opinions on the priorities for housing in the borough.

4.5 The sessions with the staff and council tenants identified a number of ideas for the Housing Service to progress around tenant involvement in the service and a desire to increase the environmental sustainability of the Council stock.

4.6 The consultation helped inform the priorities of the Strategy to align the housing related work of the Council.

4.7 An annual Housing Strategy action plan will be developed and a progress report will be completed and reported to Cabinet.

5. Alternative options

5.1 The development of a housing strategy is no longer a statutory requirement so the option of not producing a strategy was considered. It was felt that the development of a strategy helps identify housing priorities locally and set a framework for the housing related activities of the Council to meet those priorities.

6.0 Implication for consideration - Financial and value for money

6.1 The Housing Strategy 2024-2027 provides the overall strategic framework for housing and housing related activities by the Council. As such, the preparation of the Housing Strategy has no direct financial implications for the Council, although new activities brought forward under the action plan may require resourcing in the future.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

7.1 None

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human Resources

8.1 None

9.0 Implications for consideration – Council Plan

9.1 Delivery of the Housing Strategy priorities will contribute to the delivery of the key priority areas of the Council Plan; to make Chesterfield a thriving borough, improving quality of life for local people and to build a more resilient council.

10.0 Implications for consideration – climate change

10.1 Climate Change officers have been consulted on the Housing Strategy. The development and production of the Strategy itself does not have any implications for climate change; the Strategy summarises the various housing-related activities of the Council that have already been subject to climate change assessments. However, one of the priorities of the Strategy is the decarbonisation of Chesterfield’s housing stock.

11.0 Implication for consideration – equality and diversity

11.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been produced and is attached at **Appendix 2**.

12.0 Implications for consideration - risk management

| Description of the risk | Impact | Likelihood | Mitigating action | Impact | Likelihood |
|---|---------------|-------------------|---|---------------|-------------------|
| A risk of duplication or less effective service delivery between partner organisations in delivering housing objectives | M | M | The Housing Strategy clearly sets out the role of the Council in supporting housing and housing related activities within the Borough | L | L |
| There is a risk that the Council’s | L | L | The Housing Strategy provides a clear link | L | L |

| Description of the risk | Impact | Likelihood | Mitigating action | Impact | Likelihood |
|---|---------------|-------------------|--|---------------|-------------------|
| 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 | | | between housing issues and the Council's policy/action response. The Strategy provides a framework for the development of new programmes and initiatives | | |
| 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 |

Decision information

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|----------------------------|------------|
| Key decision number | |
| Wards affected | All |

Document information

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|---|----------------------------------|
| Report author | |
| Jane Davies Service Director - Housing jane.davies@chesterfield.gov.uk | |
| 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 1 | Draft Housing Strategy 2024-2027 |
| Appendix 2 | Equality impact assessment |