

CABINET OVERVIEW WORKING GROUP
Thursday 10 October 2019 at 7.30 pm
Council Chamber - Civic Centre

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.
2. Declarations of Interest
To receive Councillors' declarations of interest (if any) in relation to any matters on the agenda.
3. Minutes (Pages 2 - 4)
To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2019.
4. Matters arising
Any matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.
5. Regeneration Strategy - Interim Report (Pages 5 - 7)
6. Housing Strategy - Interim Report (Pages 8 - 12)
7. Work Plan (Page 13)
To review the Overview Working Group's work plan for the current year.
8. Matters of Urgent Business
Such other business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be received as a matter of urgency by reason of special circumstances to be specified in the minutes.

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET OVERVIEW WORKING GROUP
HELD ON**

15 August 2019

7.30 - 8.05 pm

PRESENT

Overview Working Group Members

Councillor Tony Edwards (Chair)
Councillor Jodi Dunne (Vice-Chair)
Councillor David Carter
Councillor Jean Clark
Councillor Bob Davis
Councillor Michael Garnett
Councillor Shona Johnson

Officers

Simon Freeman, Head of Finance and Deputy to the Chief Executive
Adam Rees, Governance Support Officer

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Simon Carter.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

- a) Houses of Multiple Occupation - Question and Answer Session with the Leader and Portfolio Holders

It was agreed that a briefing note would be circulated to the Working Group which would detail progress made on implementing a town-wide Article 4 Direction, Officer capacity for dealing with enforcement matters surrounding HMOs, and updates on the meetings taking place between Officers at London Boroughs and councils in Essex.

5. **CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY - INITIAL REPORT**

The Working Group received an initial report on the work being undertaken by the Council to reduce its environmental impact. The report set out short, medium and longer term actions split into three different work streams.

The Working Group considered the work streams and agreed the following items would be moved from medium term to short term:

- i) Consider the building of new carbon neutral Council housing/retrofitting of existing Council housing stock to be carbon neutral;
- ii) Consider planting of wildflower verges to reduce emissions, promote health and wellbeing and increase biodiversity; and
- iii) Installation of water fountains in public places that reduces the use of single use plastic water bottles.

The Working Group also agreed that an audit of the electric car charging points in Harlow should be conducted, and that Officers would look at how engine idling restrictions worked in other areas.

It was noted that work was underway to install LED street lighting throughout Harlow.

RESOLVED that:

A The following items would be moved from medium term to short term:

- i) Consider the building of new carbon neutral Council housing/retrofitting of existing Council housing stock to be carbon neutral;
- ii) Consider planting of wildflower verges to reduce emissions, promote health and wellbeing and increase biodiversity; and
- iii) Installation of water fountains in public places that reduces the use of single use plastic water bottles.

B An audit is conducted in the short term on electric car charging points in Harlow.

C Officers will look at how other councils are implementing car idling restrictions.

6. **WORK PLAN**

RESOLVED that the Work Plan was noted.

7. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW
WORKING GROUP

REPORT TO: OVERVIEW WORKING GROUP

DATE: 10 OCTOBER 2019

TITLE: REGENERATION STRATEGY – INTERIM REPORT

LEAD OFFICER: JANE GREER, HEAD OF COMMUNITY
WELLBEING (01279) 446406

CONTRIBUTING OFFICER: JULIE HOUSTON, STRATEGY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (01279) 446445

RECOMMENDED that the Overview Working Group:

- A** Establishes a member Working Group for the purposes of producing the Regeneration Strategy with a minimum of three members.
- B** Agrees the approach to the development of the Regeneration Strategy detailed in the report.
- C** Notes that an interim report will be delivered by March 2020.

BACKGROUND

1. Regeneration and a thriving economy is a priority for the Council. The Council requires a clear statement of policy to guide its regeneration activity and make the case for investment in Harlow. This is particularly important in the context of the development of the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town project, and opportunities to attract and bid for external investment and funding.
2. Officers have reviewed the approach previously suggested to the development of the Regeneration Strategy and are proposing a revised approach which is considered more succinct and appropriate and enables the authority to direct resources to the development of projects that will flow from the Strategy.

ISSUES/PROPOSALS

3. The Council needs a Regeneration Strategy that has a clear vision for the regeneration of the town over the long term, that is based on a review of the currently available evidence and that seeks to proactively capitalise on opportunities as and when they become available.
4. In the first instance a member Working Group is suggested to develop a vision for the regeneration of Harlow and review the evidence.
5. The Working Group will consider the following key themes central to developing a strategic approach to opportunities for regeneration:

- a) Infrastructure;
 - b) Town Centre;
 - c) Neighbourhood Renewal;
 - d) Employment and Skills;
 - e) Arts and Culture;
 - f) The role of public sector assets; and
 - g) Third sector support and community leadership
6. Councillors are invited to consider whether there are any additional themes that should be included.
 7. Each theme will develop a series of key projects to deliver the aspirations of that theme as the opportunities arise.
 8. It is suggested that the Working Group comprise of at least three Councillors and that the group will consult with key Portfolio Holders to develop the Vision and themes appropriate to them.
 9. The Strategy will be subject to review on a bi-annual basis.
 10. The Working Group will be convened at the earliest opportunity to commission the required evidence base, develop its work plan and schedule of meetings to achieve the work plan.

IMPLICATIONS

Environment and Planning (Includes Sustainability)

None specific.

Author: Andrew Bramidge, Head of Environment and Planning

Finance (Includes ICT, and Property and Facilities)

None specific.

Author: Simon Freeman, Head of Finance and Deputy to the Chief Executive

Housing

As outlined in the report.

Author: Andrew Murray, Head of Housing

Community Wellbeing (Includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)

As contained within the report.

Author: Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing

Governance (Includes HR)

As contained within the report.

Author: Simon Hill, Head of Governance

Appendices

None.

Background Papers

None.

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

None.

REPORT TO: CABINET OVERVIEW WORKING GROUP

DATE: 10 OCTOBER 2019

TITLE: HOUSING STRATEGY – INTERIM REPORT

LEAD OFFICER: JANE GREER, HEAD OF COMMUNITY WELLBEING (01279) 556406

CONTRIBUTING OFFICER: ALISON FOX, REGENERATION PROJECT MANAGER (01279) 446407

RECOMMENDED that the Working Group:

- A** Notes the content of the report and the progress made on drafting the Housing Strategy.
- B** Creates a sub-group to meet and review the content of the proposed housing strategy in more detail with a view to bringing a final draft of the Housing Strategy back to the Overview Working Group in March 2020 for recommendation for adoption by Cabinet.

BACKGROUND

1. A scoping report on the Housing Strategy was brought to the Overview Working Group in January 2019 which outlined the purpose of the review would be to produce a Housing Strategy for the next five years. It would have a clear vision and priorities ensuring that Harlow's housing offer attempts to address the needs of all local residents.
2. Since January progress has been made ongoing in creating a new Housing Strategy.
3. Consultants have been appointed by the Garden Town team to produce a Garden Town Housing Plan. They have produced background topic papers providing in depth analysis of the local housing market and developing a shared vision across the partners of what housing in the Garden Town must achieve and how It will get there. It is expected that the Garden Town Housing Plan will be adopted by the end of the year.
4. The Council has published its first Housing Delivery Test Action Harlow has delivered a total of 846 new homes which is 84 per cent of the identified need of 1008 new homes over the three year period. The Housing Delivery Test Action Plan outlines the issues and barriers Harlow faces in delivering new homes and identifies a series of actions that are within the Council's remit to deliver to help improve delivery rates.

5. Background research and initial outlining of the proposed content for the new Housing Strategy has been undertaken. The draft proposed content proposes that there should be four key priorities for the Housing Strategy each of which will be split in to key themes. The proposed four priorities are:
 - a) Creating a suitable supply of new housing to meet local housing needs;
 - b) Addressing the housing needs of target and vulnerable groups;
 - c) Improving housing in the Private Rented Sector; and
 - d) Supporting the regeneration of Harlow
6. The proposed draft content of the housing strategy is attached to as an appendix to this report.

ISSUES/PROPOSALS

7. As the proposed content of the Housing Strategy is wide ranging in its scope and requires some detailed analysis of issues such as the local housing market, consideration of different housing products and potential solutions it is proposed that a subgroup of the Overview Working Group is set up with the intention that they meet monthly over the coming months to explore each of the proposed priorities, with the aim of bringing a final draft to the March 2020 Overview Working Group for adoption by the Council soon afterwards.

IMPLICATIONS

Environment and Planning (Includes Sustainability)

The Housing Strategy will help to provide a framework and monitoring plan for the delivery of the Council's housing targets as set out in the Local Plan.

Author: Andrew Bramidge, Head of Environment and Planning

Finance (Includes ICT, and Property and Facilities)

None specific.

Author: Simon Freeman, Head of Finance and Deputy to the Chief Executive

Housing

None specific.

Author: Andrew Murray, Head of Housing

Community Wellbeing

The Housing Strategy will help guide the size and type of homes delivered in the district.

Author: Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing

Governance (Includes HR)

As contained within the report.

Author: Simon Hill, Head of Governance

Appendices

Appendix A – Housing Strategy Proposed Content

Background Papers

None.

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

None.

Proposed Framework of Harlow Housing Strategy 2020 – 2025

Nu	Chapter Heading	Content to include
1	Forward	By Portfolio Holder for Housing
2	Introduction	<p>Purpose of document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sets out how Council intends to address key housing issues over next 5 years - Assessment of current and future housing needs - How Council intends to meets needs - Will help guide future planning and delivery of new homes to meet local needs <p>Structure of document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing Strategy Priorities: - Objectives for each Priority - Why each objective is important (short summary of key issues and challenges) - What we plan to do for each objective (summary of actions)
3	Local context	<p>Short introduction to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - local housing market, - housing demand / housing need <p>Reference to background papers which will be appendices.</p>
4	<p>Priority 1: Creating a suitable supply of new housing to meet local housing needs</p>	<p>Objective 1.1: Increasing the supply of new housing generally across the town to meet the needs of local residents and workers</p> <p>Theme 1- Increasing new build completions</p> <p>Theme 2 – Supporting growth through the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town</p> <p>Theme 3 – Enabling self-build and custom build housebuilding</p> <p>Objective 1.2: Maximising the supply and diversity of affordable housing options to ensure the right type of housing are available in the right places.</p> <p>Theme 1: How affordable is the local housing market for local people</p> <p>Theme 2: Affordable housing negotiated through the planning system</p> <p>Theme 3: Diversifying the range of affordable housing options to provide greater affordable choice for local people</p> <p>Objective 1.3: Develop a Council House Building Programme</p>
5	<p>Priority 2: Address the housing needs of target and vulnerable groups</p>	<p>Objective 2.1: Improving health and wellbeing</p> <p>Theme 1: Ensuring good quality and accessible homes.</p> <p>Theme 2: Ensuring homes benefit from digital technology that supports health and wellbeing of residents.</p> <p>Theme 3: Built environment that promotes healthier lifestyles</p> <p>Objective 2.2: Address the needs of homeless people</p> <p>Objective 2.3: Address the housing needs of target groups</p> <p>Theme 1: Older People’s Housing</p> <p>Theme 2: Housing for people with disabilities</p> <p>Theme 3: Supported housing</p>

		<p>Theme 4: Gypsy and Travellers</p> <p>Theme 5: Housing for people under 35 years old</p> <p>Theme 6: Key workers</p> <p>Theme 7: Ex-offenders</p>
6	<p>Priority 3: Improving housing in the Private Rented Sector</p>	<p>Objective 3.1: Understanding the importance of the private rented sector</p> <p>Theme 1: Growth of the private rented sector – general expansion of sector</p> <p>Theme 2: The impact of the growth of permitted development office conversions to residential.</p> <p>Theme 3: Affordability of the private rented sector.</p> <p>Theme 4: Empty Homes</p>
7	<p>Priority 4: Supporting the Regeneration of Harlow</p>	<p>Objective 4.1: Ensuring the delivery of new housing in the Town Centre contributes to a vibrant and sustainable town centre</p> <p>Theme 1: Supporting the regeneration of the Town Centre through housing provision</p> <p>Theme 2: Exploring opportunities for specialist housing within the Town Centre.</p> <p>Objective 4.2: Supporting the growth of Harlow and Gilston Garden Town</p> <p>Theme 1: Harlow and Gilston Housing Plan</p> <p>Objective 4.3: Supporting the regeneration of Harlow Council</p> <p>Theme 1: Estate regeneration programmes</p> <p>Theme 2: Regeneration through development</p> <p>Objective 4.3: Supporting the Economic growth of the town through housing</p> <p>Theme 1: Supporting recruitment and retention of staff for key businesses within the town</p> <p>Theme 2: Skills shortages within the construction industry</p> <p>Theme 3: Ensuring all housing has high quality digital infrastructure</p> <p>Theme 4: Supporting the delivery of high quality and environmentally sustainable new house building</p>
8	<p>Implementing and Monitoring the Housing Strategy</p>	<p>How the strategy will be delivered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing Strategy Delivery Plan <p>How the strategy will be monitored</p>

Cabinet Overview Working Group Work Plan 2019/20

Work	Thursday 15 August 2019	Thursday 10 October 2019	Thursday 28 November 2019	Thursday 16 January 2020	Wednesday 12 March 2020
Regeneration Strategy		Interim Report			Interim Report
Local Council Tax Support Scheme			Report		
Treasury Management Strategy			Strategy Review		
Housing Strategy		Interim Report			Final Report
Climate Change Strategy	Initial Report				