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.