

REPORT TO: CABINET OVERVIEW WORKING GROUP

DATE: 12 MARCH 2020

TITLE: HOUSING STRATEGY – INTERIM REPORT

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RECOMMENDED that:

A Progress on the development of the Housing Strategy is noted.

BACKGROUND

1. In October 2019 an interim report on the development of the new Housing Strategy was taken to the Overview Working Group (OWG), where it was agreed that a subgroup of the OWG would be formed to undertake the more detailed work required to create the strategy. The Strategy will identify the key priorities and issues for strategic housing in Harlow and set out how the Council intends to address the key housing issues.
2. Councillors Jean Clark, Simon Carter and Nancy Watson were nominated to form the subgroup and arrangements were made for the subgroup to meet on a monthly basis from November 2019.
3. A variety of background papers have been supplied to the subgroup, and over the past few months they have reviewed the proposed content of the Strategy, helping to ensure that the content links-in with key Council agendas and that consensus is achieved on the proposed content.
4. In January, the subgroup reviewed survey questions and a summary document of the proposed content of the Strategy which is forming the basis of a consultation exercise taking place between 3 February and 22 March 2020. The summary of the proposed content of the Strategy is included as Appendix A.
5. The consultation is hosted on the Council's website and is aimed at local residents and Councillors, as well as the Council's relevant partners and other stakeholders. The consultation will be circulated to a wide variety of stakeholders including registered providers and developers and will be promoted to local residents via social media.

ISSUES/PROPOSALS

6. Once the feedback from the survey is collected, it will be reviewed and the full version of Housing Strategy will be drafted. The final version of the Strategy will be reported to the next meeting of the OWG.

IMPLICATIONS

Environment & Planning (Includes Sustainability)

The development of a Housing Strategy is an important step following the completion of Harlow's new Local Development Plan and will provide part of the evidence in the five year review of that Plan. The development of the Housing Strategy will also provide a clear statement of Harlow's needs and aspirations as part of the plans for the Harlow and Gilston Garden Town.

Author: Andrew Bramidge, Head of Environment & Planning

Finance (Includes ICT)

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)

The consultation currently being undertaken will ensure that it reflects residents priorities for house building in the Harlow area and shapes Council's future strategy.

Author: Simon Hill, Head of Governance

Appendices

Appendix A - Harlow Housing Strategy Summary 2020 – 2025 (February 2020)

Background Papers

None.

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

None.