

NEW HOUSING STRATEGY – 2021 – 2025

- Summary:** This report sets out:
- The works so far undertaken to develop the new Housing Strategy for 2021 to 2025, including considerable consultation with members and other stakeholders.
 - A new Housing Strategy and Housing Strategy Action Plan 2021-25 for Cabinet's views.
- Options considered:** The New Housing Strategy is a Corporate Objective - there are no alternative options possible.
- Conclusions:** The Housing Strategy will ensure the Council delivers the housing objectives in the Corporate Plan.
- Recommendations:** **To recommend that Full Council approves the Housing Strategy and Action Plan 2021-25.**
- Reasons for Recommendations:** To deliver a new Housing Strategy and the other Housing related objectives in the Corporate Plan.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

None

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr. Wendy Fredericks
Ward(s) affected: District-wide

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 All housing authorities are required to review housing conditions in their area and make plans to help address these. The housing challenges in North Norfolk are substantial and an ambitious strategy is required to help tackle these. The previous Housing Strategy ran from 2016-2020 and now needs to be replaced. Housing is a high priority for the Council and the production of a New Housing Strategy is a Corporate Objective. The New Strategy builds on the framework provided by the Local Homes for Local Need Objectives in the Corporate Plan.
- 1.2 This Housing Strategy sets out the Council's priorities for housing. It also sets out the actions the Council intends to take to improve housing in the district.
- The Council's Corporate Plan Objectives set out the key priority areas for housing.
 - Evidence on housing challenges and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders has identified some additional priorities.
- The Strategy includes the actions and interventions which the Council, partners and stakeholders will undertake to deliver the key priorities for Housing.
- 1.3 The Housing Strategy has close links with both the current and emerging local plans. In addition to delivering the Housing Objectives in the Corporate Plan the Housing Strategy will help deliver other Corporate Objectives. For example, actions to improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty will also have a positive impact on reducing carbon emissions in the district.
- 1.4 To accompany this report are the new Housing Strategy (including the Housing Strategy Action Plan and evidence of housing challenges in Housing in North Norfolk a Summary of Issues 2020).

Developing the Strategy

- 1.5 The Corporate Plan provided a framework of many objectives for the new housing strategy, evidence was also gathered to understand housing issues in the district and gap analysis undertaken against current activity to identify key areas for action.
- 1.6 Significant consultation was undertaken to develop the Strategy. A wide range of stakeholders - over 60 people - contributed to one or more of the Housing Strategy Workshops held in March and April.
- 1.7 Stakeholders included; district councillors, town and parish councillors, officers from Housing Associations, Board members from community-led housing groups, private developers and builders, private landlords, the Eastern Landlords Association, country estates and representatives from political parties not currently represented at the council.

The Housing Strategy reflects and benefits from the contributions of stakeholders. A spin off benefit is that we have a large group of people we can involve in the delivery of the new Strategy

The emerging strategy was 'tested' at a further members' briefing at the end of April 2021

Work in Progress

- 1.8 The Housing Strategy is substantially complete but there are still opportunities for change. In particular some of the delivery dates in the Housing Strategy Action Plan may be subject to further revision following consultation with service managers.

Resource Implications

- 1.9 The actions to improve energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty are likely to require a dedicated staff resource (i.e. an Energy Officer). A budget for this post, likely to be fixed-term, is yet to be approved but options for grant support for this will be explored.
- 1.10 All other actions in the Action Plan can be delivered within existing resources. However, as previously noted, the delivery dates of some actions are subject to further revision following consultation with service managers.
- 1.11 There are many actions/projects in the Strategy that involve research followed by a report and recommendations. Whilst the research actions/projects can be delivered within existing budgets, it is likely that some of the recommendations will have budget implications. Where this is the case these will be brought forward as separate project proposals with any resource implications clarified and highlighted

Governance Timeline

- 1.12 To complete and approve the Housing Strategy we propose the following governance timeline.

Governance	Date	Purpose
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	14/7/21 (papers 6/7/21)	Testing whether proposed actions will deliver address objectives and tackle the housing challenges identified
Full Council	21/7/21 (papers 6/7/21)	Confirmation of Strategy and Action Plan

2. Conclusion

- 2.1 The Housing Strategy is a key Council document and sets out the actions required to deliver the Housing Objectives of the Corporate Plan and tackle many of the housing challenges in the district.

3. Implications and Risk

4. Financial Implications and Risks

- 4.1 Delivering the energy and fuel poverty related actions in the Housing Strategy will need a dedicated resource (i.e. an Energy Officer). This post is subject to separate approval but grant funding for this may be available to fund/offset the cost.
- 4.2 Other financial implications may arise as research projects set out in the Strategy Action Plan are completed and recommendations emerge. These will be the subject of further separate reports.

5. Sustainability

5.1 A number of actions in the Housing Strategy Action Plan link to energy and sustainability issues, the adoption of the Strategy and implementation of the action plan will help achieve the Council's environmental and climate change objectives.

6. Equality and Diversity

6.1 No direct implications in this report

7. Section 17 Crime and Disorder considerations

8.1 No direct implications in this report