

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA
ITEM NO

HOUSING COMMITTEE

8

10 SEPTEMBER 2019

Report Title	HOUSING STRATEGY 2019 - 2024
Purpose of Report	To approve the new draft housing strategy following consultation.
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to approve the Housing Strategy 2019-2024 for publication.
Consultation and Feedback	Extensive consultation has taken place; this is reflected in the body text below.
Financial Implications and Risk Assessment	<p>There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.</p> <p>Lucy Clothier, Interim Accountancy Manager Tel: 01453 754343 Email: lucy.clothier@stroud.gov.uk</p> <p>Risk Assessment: The Strategy seeks to mitigate risk across the Council's spectrum of housing activity by proactively planning for service change to reflect the legislative operating environment.</p>
Legal Implications	<p>There is a statutory requirement for the authority to have a housing strategy.</p> <p>Having consulted on the draft strategy, there is a legal requirement to conscientiously take into account the outcome of the consultation responses prior to a decision being made.</p> <p>Patrick Arran, Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer Tel: 01453 754369 Email: patrick.arran@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Report Author	<p>Pippa Stroud, Housing Strategy and Community Infrastructure Manager Tel: 01453 754099 Email: pippa.stroud@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Options	The council could choose to not update the current housing strategy. However, the council has previously fulfilled a statutory duty to periodically review the housing needs of its area and to formulate and publish a housing strategy.
Performance Management Follow Up	Annual Action Plan monitoring will take place and be published on SDC's website.
Background Papers/ Appendices	<p>Housing Committee December 2018 - approval of draft for consultation.</p> <p>Appendix A: Housing Strategy 2019 - 2024 Appendix B: Action Plan Appendix C: Consultation responses</p>

1. INTRODUCTION / BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Accessible, affordable and safe housing forms a fundamental part of the wellbeing of all communities and the life chances of every individual. To this end, there is a raft of statutory duties relating to the housing activities that councils must undertake.
- 1.2 The Housing Strategy is the Council's overarching document that seeks to reflect the range of housing interventions that the Council takes part in, and sets the direction of travel for housing-related services in future through the action planning process.
- 1.3 The previous Housing Strategy was out of date, and given the rapid legislative, policy and economic changes that have taken place in the last five years in this sector, an update is appropriate.

2. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 2.1 Following endorsement of the draft Housing Strategy at Housing Committee on 11th of December 2018, formal consultation started on 7th March and ended on May 2nd. The consultation was placed online via SDC's website; an accompanying press release was prepared and mention of the consultation was made in the Leader's Diary. In addition, details about, and links to, the consultation were emailed to all members, all parish and town councils, and to all appropriate professional organisations.
- 2.2 A total of 50 individuals and organisations responded, resulting in a total of 376 individual responses to the consultation questions. Not all responses covered all of the questions; the consultation system was deliberately configured in order to allow this so as to provide maximum flexibility for consultees.
- 2.3 In addition to the online consultation, all Members were invited to a dedicated Housing Strategy Workshop session on 23rd April which presented the strategy and sought feedback. A total of 9 Members attended this session.
- 2.4 The consultation responses received online were circulated to the relevant officers, who have commented on these where appropriate; these responses and comments are appended to this report and will be published on SDC's website. Member comments made separately to this are reflected in the minutes of the February Housing Committee and the notes of the April workshop. All of these comments have been taken into account and the Strategy has, where appropriate, been amended to reflect them. The Action Plan has been developed with the individual service areas and likewise reflects the consultation feedback received.

3. CONCLUSION / RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Members are invited to approve this Housing Strategy for publication.