

HPRRS SCRUTINY – 10TH DECEMBER 2019

Report of the Head of Strategic and Private Sector Housing Cabinet Lead Member: Councillor Mercer

ITEM 9 HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS AND EMPTY HOMES STRATEGIES UPDATE

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the delivery of the Housing, Homelessness and Empty Homes Strategies and the continued actions to deliver the objectives.

Recommendation

To note the update of the Housing, Homelessness and Empty Homes Strategies and comment on the future actions to deliver the priorities.

Reason

To ensure that the Housing, Homelessness and Empty Homes Strategies, which provide a clear framework to deliver the Council's value of 'Creating a Strong and Lasting Community', meets its obligations in respect of the strategic housing needs of the Borough.

Policy Context and Justification

The Housing, Homelessness and Empty Homes Strategies are designed to help deliver the Council's priorities identified in the Corporate Plan.

Background

Housing Strategy 2015-2020

The Housing Strategy 2015-2020 sets out how housing will contribute towards achieving the Council's strategic goals. The Strategy concentrates on 3 key objectives:

- Increasing the Supply of Suitable Housing
- Reducing the Barriers to Housing
- Prioritising Services to Enable People to Stay in their Own Homes

The current Housing Strategy for Charnwood was adopted in April 2015. Since then, there have been significant changes to the housing landscape; in particular, the introduction of the Housing and Planning Act 2016, the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, and more recently, the publication of the Housing White Paper, 'Fixing our broken housing market'.

The Housing Strategy progress report (see Appendix 1) provides an overview of our current priorities, our achievements and the challenges that lie ahead for housing including setting out our actions planned up unto April 2020.

The Housing Strategy is currently under review and the proposed objectives for the new Strategy are:

Priority 1: Place - Delivering housing that meets the needs of the current and future residents of the Borough

- Maximise the delivery of affordable housing supply for those in housing need
- Acquiring existing housing to meet housing need
- Working with rural communities to provide a range of housing tenures to enable local residents to access local housing

Priority 2: People – Ensuring that residents are able to access and sustain housing appropriate for their needs

- Providing adaptations to enable residents to remain living independently
- Providing specialist accommodation, extra care housing for the elderly and supported housing for young adults
- Helping increase household income and reduce costs and access to benefits

Priority 3: Quality – Ensuring that residents have access to excellent services

- Improving management and condition of properties in the public and private sector
- Bringing empty homes back into use
- Regenerating estates by working with residents to provide mixed communities which promote social inclusion and places to be proud to live

Homelessness Strategy 2018-2020

The Homelessness Strategy 2018-2020 concentrates on the delivery of 5 key objectives:

- Strong and effective partnership working
- Early targeted advice and intervention to prevent the loss of accommodation
- Effective action to relieve homelessness
- Support to sustain tenancies and prevent repeat homelessness
- Protect and increase local housing options

The current Homelessness Strategy 2018-2020 for Charnwood was adopted in March 2018. The Homelessness Strategy progress report (see Appendix 2) provides an overview of our current priorities and our achievements.

The Homelessness Strategy 2018-2020 has been reviewed and renamed the Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Prevention Strategy, a report is being taken to Cabinet on the 16th December 2019 to approve a new 3 year strategy.

The new strategy has 6 key objectives which include the 5 above and a new 1 for Support for Rough Sleepers.

Empty Homes Strategy 2017-2020

The Empty Homes Strategy 2017-2022 concentrates on the delivery of 4 key objectives:

- Encourage empty home owners to bring empty homes back into use.
- Bring problematic empty homes back into use through enforcement action.
- Devise and explore new and innovative solutions to reduce the impact of empty homes on local communities and bring them back into use.
- Develop a co-ordinated approach to help identify and tackle empty homes.

The current Empty Homes Strategy 2017-2022 for Charnwood was adopted in July 2017.

The Empty Homes Strategy progress report (see Appendix 3) provides an overview the current priorities and achievements.

Background Papers:

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