



EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT COVER SHEET

Title of Report:	Refreshed Housing Strategy 2021 - 2025	To be marked with an 'X' by Democratic Services after report has been presented
Meeting of:	Corporate Management Team – 17 November 2020	X
	Leader and Deputy Leaders – 23 November 2020	X
	Leader's / Leader of the Opposition's Advisory Group / Independent Alliance Advisory Group 2 & 3 December 2020	X
	Cabinet 14 December 2020 / Council [DATE]	
	Scrutiny Audit and Value for Money Council Services Committee [DATE] / Scrutiny Community Regeneration, Environment and Health and Well Being Committee [DATE]	



Is this an Executive Decision:	YES	Is this a Key Decision:	NO
Is this in the Forward Plan:	NO	Is the Report Confidential: If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:	NO []

Essential Signatories:

ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE

Monitoring Officer: **Angela Wakefield**

Date Signature

Chief Finance Officer: **Sal Khan**

Date Signature

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 14th December 2020

REPORT TITLE: Refreshed Housing Strategy 2021 - 2025

PORTFOLIO: Environment and Housing

HEAD OF SERVICE: Sal Khan

CONTACT OFFICER: Brett Atkinson Ext. No. x1123

WARD(S) AFFECTED: Multiple

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1. To seek adoption of a refreshed Housing Strategy for the period 2021 to 2025.

2. Executive Summary

2.1. The Housing Strategy is due for replacement this year so a new Housing Strategy has been consulted on. The document is designed to be accessible to a broad range of readers and the length and style are in keeping with the Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023 already adopted.

3. Background

3.1. The Housing Strategy provides the Council's vision for housing in its area. It is a high level document that brings together all the activities in the Council that contribute to the housing agenda, describing the golden thread that runs through our approach and provides an overarching framework against which other policies on more specific housing issues are formulated.

3.2. The Deregulation Act 2015 (c.20 ss.29) removed the requirement to have a Housing Strategy, and in so doing gave Local Authorities freedom as to how they developed their strategy.

4. Contribution to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1. Environment and Health and Wellbeing.

5. The Proposed Strategy

- 5.1. The proposed Housing Strategy is significantly shorter than the current strategy, and has the look & feel of the Homeless Strategy which focuses on charts and tables rather than text. The proposed Housing Strategy sets 4 priorities as follows:

5.2.

5.2.1. Housing supply is promoted: in line with the Local Plan, and including the utilisation of S106 commuted sums.

5.2.2. Capitalise on existing housing resources: facilitation of a high quality private rented sector and bringing empty homes back into use.

5.2.3. Maximise housing options for households on a low income: Access to Social / Affordable Housing, support for housing costs and improving access to home ownership.

5.2.4. Secure suitable housing for people with vulnerabilities: Adaptations and Disabled Facilities Grants, access to older persons accommodation and supported housing.

- 5.3. Following an intensive internal consultation which resulted in several changes, a wider external consultation was undertaken from 9 October 2020 closing on 28th October 2020 with no responses received.

6. Financial Considerations

This section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit: Anya Murray

- 6.1. The strategy does not commit the Council to any new expenditure. There are no financial issues arising from this Report.

7. Risk Assessment and Management

- 7.1. The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:

7.2. **Positive** (Opportunities/Benefits):

7.2.1. The strategy brings together all the work that is undertaken across the Council to realise a set of strategic priorities.

7.2.2. The strategy is concise and presented in a user friendly way to make it as accessible as possible to East Staffordshire residents.

7.3. **Negative** (Threats):

7.3.1. Changes occurring during the life of the strategy may necessitate significant revisions to the document.

7.4. The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

8. **Legal Considerations**

*This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team:
Angela Wakefield*

There are no significant legal issues arising from this Report.

9. **Equalities and Health**

9.1. **Equality impacts:** The subject of this Report is a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment is attached at Appendix 2.

9.2. **Health impacts:** The outcome of the health screening question does not require a full Health Impact Assessment to be completed.

9.3. The main equality or health issues arising from this Report are as follows:

9.3.1. The needs of disabled people for adaptations is addressed in the Strategy.

9.3.2. There is a commitment to developing older people's housing.

9.3.3. The needs of other groups for whom specialist housing is essential are also recognised.

10. **Human Rights**

10.1. There are no Human Rights issues arising from this Report.

11. **Sustainability** (including climate change and change adaptation measures)

11.1. Does the proposal result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures) N/A

12. **Recommendation(s)**

12.1. That the Housing Strategy 2021 - 2025 at Appendix 1 be adopted.

13. **Background Papers**

13.1. The Housing Strategy 2015-2020

13.2. The Local Plan 2012-2031

13.3. Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) 2014

13.4. The Homelessness Strategy 2018-2023

14. **Appendices**

14.1. Appendix 1: DRAFT Housing Strategy 2021-2025

14.2. Appendix 2: EHIA