

# TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	19 July 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	Housing Strategy Review
<b>Report of:</b>	Paula Baker, Housing Services Manager
<b>Corporate Lead:</b>	Rachel North, Deputy Chief Executive
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Derek Davies, Lead Member for Built Environment
<b>Number of Appendices:</b>	1

## **Executive Summary:**

Tewkesbury Borough Council's current Housing Strategy ends in 2017 and thus a new document which can pull together the Council's strategic priorities around housing, including homelessness and tenancy management, for the period 2017 – 2020, needs to be developed over the next six months for consideration by the Council.

Given the strategic importance of this work to delivering the Council Plan, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed in June 2016 that Members would be involved to support the development of this work. Officers are confident that the statutory requirement to produce a Homelessness Strategy and Tenancy Management Policy can be combined into one overarching Housing Strategy document within the necessary timescales.

This report suggests the creation of a Member Working Group to work with Officers on this strategy development and asks Committee for nominations to allow this work to begin.

## **Recommendation:**

- 1. To establish an Overview and Scrutiny Working Group, comprising six Members plus the Lead Member for Built Environment, to develop a new Housing Strategy.**
- 2. To APPROVE the proposed Terms of Reference for the Working Group as set out at Appendix 1.**

## **Reasons for Recommendation:**

The Homelessness Act 2002 and Local Government Act 2003 require all Councils to develop a strategy that sets out the Council's policies, commitments and programme for a wide range of housing matters.

## **Resource Implications:**

None.

## **Legal Implications:**

The production of a Housing Strategy, Homelessness Strategy and Tenancy Management Policy are statutory requirements on the Council.

## **Risk Management Implications:**

None.

**Performance Management Follow-up:**

The strategy will include an Action Plan of key tasks which will be monitored on a six monthly basis by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**Environmental Implications:**

None.

**1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 At the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members expressed a wish to be more directly involved in the development of housing policy within the Council.
- 1.2 At this time it was felt that the timescales to deliver a full Housing Strategy made it difficult to combine this work with the more pressing need for a new Homelessness Strategy which is required by February 2017 to support the Council's scheduled assessment under the Gold Standard for Home Options Services.
- 1.3 Officers have assessed the necessary work and are now confident that both pieces of work can be done together, which has significant advantages given the necessary crossover between these two elements of the Council's strategic approach to housing.
- 1.4 Officers also agree strongly that a Member Working Group would be of considerable benefit in helping shape the emerging strategy document and the Council's overall housing priorities. This report sets out Terms of Reference for a Working Group for consideration.

**2.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- 2.1 The suggested Terms of Reference are attached to the report in Appendix 1 and adhere to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's standard approach to the creation of working groups.
- 2.2 A schedule of meetings is also included to provide Members with more information about the nature of the work and the expected level of participation.

- 2.3 Suggested dates are as follows:

	Provisional Date	Purpose

Member Working Group 1	18 August 2016	The Housing Strategy overall; an opportunity to talk through key issues, present the National Policy context, local challenges and emerging priorities.
Member Working Group 2	w/c 19/09/2016	Consideration of strategic priorities 1 and 2.
Member Working Group 3	17, 18 or 19 October 2016	Consideration of priorities 3 and 4 and the consultation feedback.
Member Working Group 4	w/c 14 November 2016	Meeting to approve the Strategy.
O&S Committee	29 November 2016	Committee agreement.
Member Working Group 5	w/c 5 December 2016	Additional meeting if necessary.
Council	24 January 2017	Council sign off of Strategy.

**2.4** The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to nominate six Members to serve on this Working Group. The Lead Member for Built Environment will also be invited to attend.

### **3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

**3.1** None.

### **4.0 CONSULTATION**

**4.1** Consultation with key stakeholders and the public will be a feature of the Housing Strategy development.

### **5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES**

**5.1** Joint Core Strategy  
Tewkesbury Borough Plan

### **6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES**

**6.1** Homelessness Act 2002  
Local Government Act 2003  
Localism Act 2011

### **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)**

**7.1** Officer time.

### **8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)**

**8.1** None at this stage.

**9.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)**

**9.1** None at this stage.

**10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS**

**10.1** None.

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**Background Papers:** None

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**Appendices:** Appendix 1 - Housing Strategy Working Group Terms of Reference