

# TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Report to:</b>	Executive Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	3 February 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Interim Housing Strategy
<b>Report of:</b>	Acting Housing Services Manager
<b>Corporate Lead:</b>	Head of Community Services
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Lead Member for Housing
<b>Number of Appendices:</b>	One

## **Executive Summary:**

The current Housing Strategy 2017-2021 is due for renewal from April 2021. Due to work in relation to COVID-19 the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing, took the decision to defer producing a full, new four-year strategy document until April 2022.

Officers have also been mindful of the recent publication of the Local Housing Needs Assessment, the emerging Domestic Abuse Bill and changes to planning approaches that would inform the future strategy. A strategy 'refresh' will ensure we have an interim strategy in place for one year for guidance and monitoring and also enable us to produce a more robust document into the following year. The refreshed strategy brings the document up to date in terms of legislative changes and housekeeping and is not fundamentally different to the original strategy in terms of substance. A new full strategy will be developed over the forthcoming 12 months. This approach has been endorsed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as supporting to develop a full new strategy was originally in its work programme through a Task and Finish Working Group.

This report presents an Interim Housing Strategy for 2021-2022.

## **Recommendation:**

**The Executive Committee RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Interim Housing Strategy be approved.**

## **Reasons for Recommendation:**

To ensure that the Council's Housing Strategy remains fit for purpose and provides a strategic document to guide Councillors and Officers in delivering our housing services.

## **Resource Implications:**

None arising directly from this report.

## **Legal Implications:**

None arising directly from this report.

**Risk Management Implications:**

In the face of complex housing challenges and significant growth comprehensive local housing strategies serve a key purposes. Local housing strategies provide a framework to draw together the many sources of funding and relevant policy strands into a single, coordinated strategy to tackle local housing challenges.

**Performance Management Follow-up:**

The housing strategy and the Key Performance Indicators are monitored by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the Council's performance tracker and by regular strategy progress updates.

**Environmental Implications:**

None arising directly from this report.

**1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 1.1** The current Housing Strategy 2017-2021 is due for renewal from April 2021. Due to work in relation to COVID-19 the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Lead Member for Housing, took the decision to defer producing a full, new four-year strategy document until April 2022.
- 1.2** There have however been a number of legislative changes that have resulted in changes to the way that housing allocations and homelessness are dealt with and this legislation needs to be reflected within the strategy.
- 1.3** This interim strategy has been prepared as a review from the 2017-21 strategy. The interim approach is appropriate as there are many changes both proposed and current in the housing and planning policy landscape as well as COVID-19 restrictions. These are yet to be fully resolved and impacts understood. A further comprehensive review is proposed in 2021/22 when it is anticipated matters will have settled.

**2.0 INTERIM HOUSING STRATEGY**

- 2.1** The Housing Strategy has been refreshed with legislation and policy brought up to date. The priorities have been reset to reflect current work and a new set of performance indicators have been produced.

**3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 3.1** An option to not refresh the strategy was dismissed as we need a functioning strategy to help guide and monitor our activities.
- 3.2** Completing a full review and delivering a brand new strategy for 2021 would not have been possible without affecting other areas of our service during an extremely challenging time.

**4.0 CONSULTATION**

- 4.1** The Lead Member for Housing was consulted in the development of the Interim Housing Strategy.

**5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES**

- 5.1** The Council Plan 2020 – 2024.  
The Joint Core Strategy.  
Tewkesbury Borough Plan 2011 – 2031.

**6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES**

- 6.1** Laying the foundations: a housing strategy for England 2011.

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

- 7.1** None.

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

- 8.1** None.

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

- 9.1** None.

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

- 10.1** None.

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**Background Papers:** None.

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**Appendices:** 1 – ‘At home in Tewkesbury Borough, Interim Housing Strategy for our Borough’ (Tracked changes shown).  
2 – ‘At home in Tewkesbury Borough, Interim Housing Strategy for our Borough’ (Tracked changes off).