

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	2 March 2022
Subject:	Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2022-26
Report of:	Housing Services Manager
Corporate Lead:	Head of Community Services
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Housing
Number of Appendices:	Three

Executive Summary:

The current Interim Housing Strategy 2021/22 was put in place as an extension to the previous Housing Strategy 2017-2021 as preparation for a new full Housing Strategy was deferred as a result of COVID-19.

Following workshops with key stakeholders including Members, internal colleagues and external partners, a draft strategy document was produced and made available for public consultation.

Responses have been considered and helped to deliver the Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2022-26 document attached at Appendix 1.

The Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2022-26 was endorsed by Overview & Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 8 February.

Recommendation:

To RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that the Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2022-26 be APPROVED.

Reasons for Recommendation:

To ensure that the Council's Housing and Homelessness Strategy is in place and provides a strategic document to guide Councillors and Officers in delivering our housing services.

Resource Implications:

The implementation of the new policy will be met within current resources.

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 and Homelessness Strategy and the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) 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 Housing Strategy 2017-21 was 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 releasing a full, new four-year strategy document until April 2022.

2.0 HOUSING STRATEGY 2022-26

2.1 Production of the strategy has been led by an evidence-based approach. Key to this has been the Local Housing Needs Assessment (2020) which identifies our requirements for affordable housing and highlights the need for social rent tenure properties. Four workshops were held with many key stakeholders, including a session attended by Members, and provided information on challenges and objectives. This stage was important to ensure our partners were fully included in the production process. A timeline of the process can be found at Appendix 2.

2.2 Work on the strategy has identified three themes:

1. Increasing the supply of new homes, including affordable homes.
2. Regenerating and making best use of existing housing.
3. Meeting the housing needs of homeless households and others with specific housing needs.

2.3 Feedback on these themes, challenges and objectives from the stakeholder sessions helped to develop a draft strategy document that was then released for public consultation. Detailed responses to the consultation can be found in Appendix 3.

N.B. Responses have been provided verbatim and not reviewed for spelling, punctuation, grammar or formatting.

2.4 Some wording changes were made following the public consultation and further review by the Housing Services department. There was some feedback provided on the subject of climate change; whilst points linked to climate change have been included throughout the challenges and objectives, the scope of this document is limited in its ability to address some of the issues raised. It is not a climate strategy or planning document that can introduce new policy. All responses received have been passed to the Planning Policy department.

2.5 The strategy to be endorsed by this Committee can be found at Appendix 1.

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.

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 Four workshops were held with key stakeholders including Members, internal colleagues and external partners.

4.2 The public consultation ran for six weeks from 24 November 2021 to 4 January 2022. It was advertised on the Tewkesbury Borough Council website and social media platforms. There were 18 responses made in total with an average of 83% agreeing with the objectives and 69% agreeing with actions proposed.

5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

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

6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

6.1 Laying the foundations: a housing strategy for England 2011.
Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

7.1 The implementation of the new strategy will be met within current resources.

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

8.1 None arising directly from this report.

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

9.1 None arising directly from this report.

10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

10.1 None arising directly from this report.

Background Papers: None.

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2022-26.
Appendix 2 – Housing Strategy development timeline.
Appendix 3 – Housing Strategy public consultation responses.