

# TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	12 September 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Housing and Homelessness Strategy Action Plan Monitoring Report
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Service: Housing
<b>Head of Service/Director:</b>	Director of Communities
<b>Lead Member:</b>	Lead Member for Housing, Health and Wellbeing
<b>Number of Appendices:</b>	2

## **Executive Summary:**

This report presents a monitoring plan to track delivery of objectives set out in the Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2022-26.

## **Recommendation:**

**To CONSIDER the progress made against the Housing and Homelessness Strategy Action Plan.**

## **Financial Implications:**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the strategy.

## **Legal Implications:**

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

## **Environmental and Sustainability Implications:**

Objectives included in the Housing Strategy include implications for climate change, decarbonisation and energy usage. Actions to improve these areas will be aimed at both strategic and operational/customer level.

## **Resource Implications (including impact on equalities):**

There are no direct resource implications. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed with no further assessment or actions required as a result.

## **Safeguarding Implications:**

There are no direct implications in relation to the welfare and protection from harm of children and vulnerable adults.

## **Impact on the Customer:**

Outcomes planned through the Housing Strategy will benefit customers in many ways. The action plan will help ensure these benefits are delivered.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1** The Housing Strategy was approved by Council in April 2022. Production of the strategy was led by an evidence-based approach. Key to this was the Local Housing Needs Assessment (2020) which identifies the Council's 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.

**1.2** The strategy contains three key priorities:

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

**1.3** The objectives detailed in the strategy have been presented in an action plan to monitor progress. The plan will be monitored by Overview & Scrutiny Committee through bi-annual reports.

## **2.0 HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY ACTION PLAN**

**2.1** The action plan provides a framework to give direction to services contributing to the objectives in the strategy and enable monitoring of the progress. The actions under the three priorities have been taken directly from the strategy document that was approved by Council previously. Some actions from Year One have been updated on the plan at Appendix 2 with further actions for Year Two added and some highlights expanded on below.

### **2.2 Priority 1: Increase the supply of new homes, including affordable homes (For full details see action plan)**

**2.2.1** Our partnership with Gloucestershire Rural Community Council continues to strengthen with our programme of rural housing needs surveys progressing and a new project currently under consideration as per points b and d under this priority. Three main strands of this work will be to identify local housing needs, engage local groups and identify land opportunities to help meet the identified needs.

### **2.3 Priority 2: Regenerating and making best use of existing housing**

**2.3.1** Point b under this priority highlights the work that the Housing Advice Team will be supporting through GCC/NHS Commissioning and Registered Providers (RPs). This will help customers with accessibility needs to understand which properties available through the housing register will meet their needs.

**2.3.2** A project through Rooftop Housing has been supported and aspires to be an exciting example of regeneration work. Support through commuted sums funding (see Priority 2, point d) has enabled an improved scheme to be brought forward with better standards for customers in relation to tenure, energy efficiency and sizes.

## **2.4 Priority 3: Meeting the housing needs of homeless households and others with specific needs**

**2.4.1** A very important ongoing piece of work within the Housing Advice Team has been to add knowledge and update approaches to support survivors/victims of domestic abuse as at Priority 3, Point b. Hearing from individuals with lived experience who can explain how issues they face affected their ability to make decisions and how agencies could have provided support in different ways has been very impactful and has led the team to adopt different approaches in some cases.

## **3.0 CONSULTATION**

**3.1** None

## **4.0 ASSOCIATED RISKS**

**4.1** None

## **5.0 MONITORING**

**5.1** The action plan will continue to be monitored by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES/COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES**

**6.1** The Housing Strategy is closely linked to the Council Plan and reflects the Council's commitment to:

- Put the needs of our customers at the heart of what we do and listen to what they say, whilst treating people fairly and without bias.
- Work positively with others - recognising we cannot achieve our objectives by working alone.

The strategy will help support each of the six priorities in the Council Plan.

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**Background Papers:** None

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**Appendices:** Appendix 1 - Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2022-26  
Appendix 2 - Action Plan with updates Year 2 September 2023