

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Cabinet Member for Prosperity

Date of Meeting:	5 th April 2011
Report of:	Director of Places
Subject/Title:	Housing Strategy
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Jamie Macrae

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The local Housing Strategy sets out Cheshire East's vision for housing and the priority areas that will be our focus during the period 2011 to 2016. The draft strategy is now complete and we are seeking permission to proceed to the public consultation stage.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 To grant permission to proceed with the formal consultation on the draft housing strategy.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 In order to allow stakeholders and members of the public to comment on the content and priorities set out within the housing strategy, a period of consultation needs to take place.

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All Wards

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 All Local Ward Members

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - None - Health –

- 6.1 Housing is fundamental to the well being and prosperity of the Borough. There are direct connections between the quality of the housing stock and health, educational attainment, carbon reduction and care for older people. Providing sufficient housing is essential to maintain economic growth and vitality – and access to housing is a key issue in rural areas.

7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)

7.1 There are no financial implications.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

8.1 There are no legal implications.

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 Our approach to Strategic Housing is fundamental to achieving our priorities within the Sustainable Communities Strategy “Ambition for All”, in particular, the priorities of: nurturing strong communities; supporting children and young people; ensuring a sustainable future; and driving out the causes of poor health. Our Corporate Plan supports delivery of these priorities and having an effective approach to housing is a core element of the Council’s ambitions. It is essential therefore that we have a local strategy which demonstrates how we will address these priorities.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 The Cheshire Housing Alliance launched its second Housing Strategy in July 2009, setting out the housing vision and priorities for the sub-region, giving strategic direction to the unitary authorities across Cheshire. The sub regional housing strategy continues to be a key document.

10.2 Having commissioned a Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Private Stock House Condition Survey, which gave an insight into local issues, the Strategic Housing service took the decision to produce a complementary strategy, focusing on the unique opportunities and challenges we face within Cheshire East.

10.3 The local housing strategy has been developed at a time of significant change within the social housing sector. We have therefore taken account of Government policy, as well as sub regional and local strategic approaches. The strategy links into the statutory Homelessness Strategy and the emerging Ageing Well Plan. It takes account of the developing Local Development Framework and the draft Economic Development Strategy.

10.4 Resident and stakeholder engagement has been a priority when developing the strategy to ensure that we address the issues which are important to our communities. Consultation feedback played a fundamental part of formulating our priorities.

10.5 The key priorities for delivering a balanced housing market that meets the varied needs of our residents are as follows:

- Delivering market and affordable housing.
- Making the best use of our existing stock;
- Meeting the needs of our most vulnerable residents;
- Meeting the needs of an ageing population; and
- Investing in our neighbourhoods.

10.6 The strategy addresses these priorities in turn and highlights our current position, achievements to date and our strategic approach for 2011 to 2016.

10.7 Our strategic approach demonstrates how we will address some of the issues and challenges we face. It is our intention to develop a detailed annual action plan which will specify specific projects and targets which are to be achieved. This will form the basis of the Strategic Housing Team plan and performance will be reported on a quarterly basis to both Cheshire East and the Cheshire East Strategic Housing Delivery Group.

10.8 The draft Housing Strategy is now ready to progress to the consultation stage. Following this 12 weeks stage any required amendments will be made and then the strategy will be ready for Cabinet approval. A copy of the draft Strategy will be available at the meeting and as a supplementary document on the agenda website.

11.0 Overview of Year One and Term One Issues

11.1 In order to meet the recommendation set by the Audit Commission to articulate our strategic approach we need to proceed to formal consultation.

12.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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