

Decision Maker: Cabinet Member for Housing

Subject: Strategic Plan for Housing 2011 -15

Date of Decision: 31st January 2012

Report by: Alan Cufley
Head of Community Housing & Regeneration

Wards affected: ALL

Key decision (over £250k): No

1. Purpose of report

To seek approval to finalise the 2011 – 15 Strategic Plan for Housing.

2. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member for Housing

- a) Acknowledges the consultation responses on the draft Strategic Plan which will be substantially published in the full Equality Impact Assessment**
- b) Gives delegated responsibility for incorporating the responses as necessary and publishing the Strategic Plan to the Head of Community Housing & Regeneration.**

3. Background

The city council last published a housing strategy in 2005 which expired at the end of March 2011.

In order to provide some strategic priorities for the Portsmouth housing market a wide group of stakeholder representatives and partners were asked for their views on priorities for Portsmouth early in 2011 and these have been incorporated into the current draft text.

The new Strategic Plan will have a four year life to March 2015 in order to coincide with Government Spending Reviews.

4. The Strategic Plan

The strategic plan has 5 main themes which can be developed where appropriate by relevant delivery organisations

- **The provision of advice and accommodation:**
- **Housing related support services:**

- **Creating more homes**
- **Management principles for affordable housing**
- **Better housing and better health:**

It sets out many of the key issues in the delivery and provision of more affordable and quality housing as described in the City Council's Corporate Plan and as such reflects activity around one of the key priorities for the city.

5. Consultation

On the 12 July 2011, the Cabinet Member for Housing agreed to consult on the draft Plan with relevant stakeholders. Various consultation activities have taken place as described below

- The draft Strategic Plan was made available on the Council's website (via a front page link) for over 2 months.
- The plan was discussed at Housing Partnership meetings, Resident Consortium meetings and Joint Strategic Need Assessment Group meetings
- The draft was widely circulated within Portsmouth City Council, including a period as the front page of the Intralink service
- Community and Neighbourhood Groups were made aware of the draft
- Other public sector organisations, including our Partner Registered Providers were made aware

6. Responses

In broad terms the responses from the overall consultation suggest the following areas should be highlighted:

The link to the Joint Accommodation Strategy and subsequently Adult Social Care/health links

Wheelchair adapted housing

More visibility to equality issues

Poverty

Homelessness

Fuel poverty

The housing and employment link

7. Reasons for recommendations

To enable the Strategic plan to be finalised and published so that the Strategic plan for housing over the next 4 years can be utilised.

8. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

A full Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared in respect of the Strategic Plan. Although this strategic plan does not include specific actions services will include themes from the strategic housing plan into their separate business plans to action.

9. Head of legal services' comments

The Head of Legal Services supports the recommendation, subject to the referral for review of the final draft Housing Plan.

10. Head of finance's comments

This report asks the Cabinet Member for Housing to endorse the attached 2011/12 to 2014/15 Strategic Plan for Housing. The proposals and priorities within the strategy document can largely be funded from within existing resources. However, it should be noted that Section 5, "City Council Financial Resources for Housing" does not take account of the recent Housing Reform, which under the new self financing regime from 2012/13 onwards which was implemented as part of the Localism Act 2011, will result in an improved level of resources available to provide Housing services across the city, and ensure the Council's housing stock is adequately managed, maintained, improved and where necessary replaced, over a 30 year period.

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Signed by:

Alan Cufley, Head of Community Housing & Regeneration

Separate Document:

The Strategic Housing Plan for Portsmouth 2011 – 15 (Draft)

Link to website document <http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/yourcouncil/21495.html>

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: