

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of the Customer Services Scrutiny Committee on 20th March 2023

Housing Strategy 2021-24 – Action Plan Monitoring Update: March 2023

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Housing

Classification	This report is Public
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PURPOSE / SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To provide an update on the Council’s Housing Strategy 2021-24 and the delivery of its Action Plan.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council’s Housing Strategy 2021-24 was adopted in February 2021 and sets out the Councils strategic framework to meet the districts housing growth ambitions and housing related support needs. A copy of the Housing Strategy 2021-24 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.2 To assist the delivery of the Housing Strategy an Action Plan has been developed and this is being taken forward and monitored by the Council’s teams and services. As part of this monitoring, a report on the delivery of this Action Plan was provided to the Customer Services Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in March 2022 and this report provides a second annual update.
- 1.3 Since the last report, the Joint Housing Strategy Team with North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) was disestablished and ceased to operate

on 30th November 2022, with its staff remaining with NEDDC. From the 1st December 2022 onwards the duties of the former Joint Team have been transferred to the Council's Housing Management Team and Planning Policy Team, with the general split being as follows:

- a) Housing Management Team – to undertake duties relating to homelessness, rough sleeping, private sector lettings and tenancy strategy;
 - b) Planning Policy and Housing Strategy Team – to undertake duties relating to the preparation of strategic housing policies, housing stock analysis and work on empty homes.
- 1.4 To aid the delivery of these new responsibilities new posts within both teams will be established and work on this is being progressed, although the posts are yet to be advertised and new staff recruited. However, some progress is being made in the delivery of the Housing Strategy Action Plan and this is reported below.
- 1.5 In addition, the Property Services and Housing Repairs teams also deliver the Council's new build programme, albeit at the time of writing these arrangements will be evolving with the planned transfer of these responsibilities and staff to the Council owned company, Dragonfly Development Limited.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 As Members will recall, the Council's Housing Strategy identifies how the Council will address the key challenges to deliver housing and housing related health and well-being across the district. In doing so, it identifies the following key strategic housing priorities to address the challenges highlighted:
- Key Priority 1 – Providing Good Quality Housing
 - Key Priority 2 – Enabling Housing Growth
 - Key Priority 3 – Supporting Vulnerable and Disadvantaged People.
- 2.2 The areas of action within each of these key priorities set out in the Housing Strategy are set out in the Action Plan and updates have been added against each one for Members' information.
- 2.3 For information, the format of the Action Plan has been updated and improved to better reflect the priority actions set out in the Housing Strategy. This has seen a number of priority actions being moved to their correct position in the Action Plan and a number being added that were missing from the Action Plan. To aid comparison between last year and the current year, an additional column has also been inserted and the direction of progress is now shown using the red / amber / green (RAG) system. It is hoped that these improvements will aid Members' understanding of the information contained. The Action Plan Monitoring Update: March 2023 is attached as Appendix 2 to this report.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To inform scrutiny of the Action Plan and give and updates where available, as per the Committee's terms of reference and the requirements of the Budget & Policy Framework.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There are no alternative options.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Customer Services Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the Housing Strategy Action Plan Monitoring Update: March 2023 and make any necessary recommendations arising from this work area.

Approved by Portfolio Holder for Housing – Cllr. Peake

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details: None from this specific report.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details: None from this report. The Strategy forms part of the Budget & Policy Framework.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment: Yes No

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal / report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details: The Housing Strategy has a number of positive impacts on the environment and these are set out in the updated Action Plan.

Staffing: Yes No

Details: None from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	No

<p>District Wards Significantly Affected</p>	All indirectly
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Details: Ward Members consulted on original strategy.</p>

<p>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.</p>
<p>The Strategy links to all the Corporate aims: Our Customers by providing excellent services/Our Economy by driving growth, promoting the District and being business friendly/Our Environment by protecting the quality of life for residents and businesses and meeting environmental challenges.</p>

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
1.	Housing Strategy 2021-24
2.	Housing Strategy Action Plan Monitoring Update: March 2023

<p>Background Papers</p>
<p><i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i></p>