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**CARDIFF HOUSING STRATEGY 2016-2021**

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**Purpose of Report**

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to carry out pre-decision scrutiny of the Cardiff Housing Strategy 2016-2021, attached at **Appendix A**, prior to consideration at Cabinet in September 2016 and Council thereafter.

**Background**

2. Local housing strategies were originally introduced in 2002 by the Welsh Assembly Government in order to ensure that local authorities took a cross tenure, long-term and strategic view of housing issues. Following the 2007 rationalisation of plans and strategies required by the Welsh Assembly Government, local authorities are no longer required to submit a local housing strategy to the Welsh Government.
3. However, local authorities retain responsibility to ensure that there is sufficient local strategic thinking and planning to properly manage the housing function and ensure that their objectives are delivered. The guidance on the preparation of local housing strategies is still extant; it is flexible to enable local authorities to tailor the local housing strategy to fit local circumstances.

**Cardiff Housing Strategy 2016-21**

4. The Cardiff Housing Strategy 2016-21 sets out the Council's vision and four key aims for housing and the actions that will be taken to achieve these. A whole systems approach has been taken that recognises aspects of the housing system overlap and that addressing one aspect can have implications for other factors. This is shown in diagrammatic form on **Page 6, Appendix A**.

5. The vision is:

*'We aim to deliver the best housing outcomes for the people of Cardiff, working together with our partners to ensure that all our citizens can access quality, affordable and sustainable homes.'*

6. The four key aims are:

- i) To develop a full understanding of housing need in the city
- ii) To take a coordinated and evidence based approach to developing and improving homes in Cardiff
- iii) To ensure that the housing needs of the most vulnerable are met
- iv) To improve neighbourhoods and help build stronger communities.

7. The Strategy is structured in four main chapters, one for each of the key aims, with the following headings: Housing Need; Homes; People; and Communities. All the actions detailed in the Strategy are summarised on **Pages 44-45, Appendix A**, under the heading 'We Will'. The Strategy states that these will be '*continually monitored with partners to inform an annual report of progress published each year*' (**page 5, Appendix A**).

8. Each of the four main chapters starts by detailing the current situation and evidencing the need for the actions proposed in order to meet the key aim. These actions cover different housing tenures, include work undertaken by other sections of the Council (for example Shared Regulatory Services with regard to additional licensing schemes (**page 25, Appendix A**), and work undertaken in partnership (for example with Registered Social Landlords, Health and Social Services (**page 20, Appendix A**).

9. The Strategy includes an Equalities summary, at **pages 42-43 Appendix A**, with the circles in each column showing the link between the actions and the Corporate Plan priorities.

## **Way Forward**

10. At the meeting, Councillor Susan Elsmore, Cabinet Member for Health, Housing and Wellbeing, may wish to make a statement. Communities, Housing and Customer Services officers will give a presentation on the future direction of the Cardiff Housing Strategy. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of the following officers:

- Sarah McGill, Director, Communities, Housing and Customer Services
- Jane Thomas, Assistant Director, Communities and Housing.

## **Legal Implications**

11. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

## **Financial Implications**

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to:

- i) Consider the information provided in **Appendix A** and presentation
- ii) Agree any comments, observations and recommendations committee wishes to make to the Cabinet.

**DAVID MARR**  
**Interim Monitoring Officer**  
**30 June 2016**