

Derby Housing Strategy 2009 - 2014

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Government requires that all Local Authorities have an approved 'fit for purpose' Housing Strategy. Derby was the first Local Authority in the country to produce a fit for purpose Housing Strategy in 2003. However, significant changes in housing policy and the housing market at a national, regional and local level now mean that an updated Housing Strategy is required.
- 1.2 The Housing Strategy 2009 - 14 will set the blueprint for housing led services and provision in the City over the next 5 years and will be an overarching document outlining the strategic focus for the City Council and its partners.
- 1.3 The Strategy has been developed within the framework of the national, regional, partnership and corporate drivers. The document interlinks with both the City Council's Corporate Plan and the wider Sustainable Community Strategy and contributes to partnership, corporate and community agendas throughout the City. As such, full and robust consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and organisations has been undertaken to ensure the effectiveness of the Housing Strategy in contributing towards sustainable communities.
- 1.4 The draft Housing Strategy has been developed through extensive consultation, including a major stakeholder event on 16th September and the assimilation of data from extensive housing needs research which involved over 2,000 face to face household interviews across the City.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the Derby Housing Strategy 2009 - 2014

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To ensure that the City has an up to date Housing Strategy that is capable of responding to and addressing the significant challenges arising from changing housing and economic environments.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Housing Strategy will set the blueprint for housing led services and provision in the City over the next 5 years and will be an overarching document outlining the strategic focus for the City Council and its partners.

- 4.2 The Strategy is developed around four key priority themes, capturing the main housing and related issues identified both within the city and the wider housing market. Each priority theme sets out a number of objectives and actions required to achieve those objectives.
- 4.3 The four priority themes are;
- Cohesive and empowered communities -
To ensure that housing services contribute towards the building of safe, inclusive, empowered and vibrant communities with a shared sense of belonging.
 - Affordable and accessible housing with appropriate and timely housing advice -
To ensure that every household in Derby has access to decent and appropriate housing and housing related advice services.
 - Improving homes and the living environment -
To regenerate homes and neighbourhoods in a sustainable manner.
 - Supporting vulnerable residents –
To ensure vulnerable people receive appropriate housing and housing related support.
- 4.4 The Strategy has been developed within the framework of the national, regional, partnership and corporate drivers. The document interlinks with the wider Community Strategy and contributes to partnership, corporate and community agendas throughout the City. As such, full and robust consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and organisations has been undertaken to ensure the effectiveness of the Housing Strategy in contributing towards sustainable communities.
- 4.5 The consultation process involved the distribution of 17,000 feedback forms in a range of locations including; libraries, Council reception areas and to all Derby Homes tenants and residents through the newsletter. These had a freepost address to enable people to respond and also included a dedicated email address and website to enable more detailed responses. A contact telephone number was also provided.
- 4.6 The consultation process was advertised through a press release, on the front page of the Council's website, through advertising in 'Your Derby', through the pointer panel and 'Your City Your Say'.
- 4.7 The draft strategy has been widely circulated to partners for further comment. It has been discussed at a number of forums including the Diversity Forum; City Housing Consultation Group and Strategic Liaison Group. Furthermore, a full Equality Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment have been undertaken. The Strategy has also been considered by the Council's Community Commission on two occasions during its development.
- 4.8 Copies of the full Strategy are available on the Council's CMIS system.
<http://cmis.derby.gov.uk/CMISWebPublic/CommitteeDetails.aspx?committeeID=354>

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 The absence of an updated Housing Strategy would mean that Housing and related providers within the City would be without an overarching document to identify key priorities. The lack of a widely agreed action plan would mean that necessary new interventions initiatives may not be driven forward or they may occur in an ad hoc and uncoordinated manner.

For more information contact: Ian Fullagar Tel 255185
Background papers: Housing Strategy 2009-2014.
List of appendices: Appendix 1 – Implications.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

- 1.1 Specific resource implications have been included in the housing strategy action plan. Funding for some elements of the strategy will be available from existing revenue and capital budgets and from bids made or to be made to Government departments and other agencies
- 1.2 Specific actions will however be identified in pursuit of the strategy, that will give rise to various issues that will need to be considered at that time
- 1.3 The overall delivery of the Strategy will be dependent on the availability of sufficient financial resources.

Legal

2. None directly arising from this report and the accompanying strategy. Specific actions will however be identified in pursuit of the strategy, that will give rise to various issues that will need to be considered at that time.

Personnel

3. Specific resource implications have been included in the housing strategy action plan.

Equalities impact

4. The standard of housing and housing related services in the city impacts upon the quality of life both for tenants and for those living in the neighbourhood, impacting most heavily on the more vulnerable sections of Derby's community.
An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken on the Housing Strategy.

Corporate priorities

5. The Housing Strategy will support the following Corporate Objectives:
 - Making us proud of our neighbourhoods
 - Creating a 21st Century City Centre
 - Leading Derby towards a better environment
 - Giving you excellent services and value for money
 - Supporting everyone in learning and achieving
 - Helping us all to be healthy, active and independent
 - Giving you excellent services and value for money