

# REPORT TO CUSTOMER FOCUS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Report of: Lawrence Blake

Title: Council Housing Strategy

## Is this a Key Decision?

Scrutiny is a non decision making committee

## Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Executive

### 1. What is the report about?

The report summarises the contents of the proposed Council Housing Strategy 2023-2027 and the context in which it has been developed. A copy of the full strategy document is appended.

### 2. Recommendations:

That Scrutiny Committee and Executive note and Council approves the new Council Housing Strategy as summarised in this report.

### 3. Reasons for the recommendation:

The new Council Housing Strategy provides a high level overview of the City Council's priorities for the future for its Council Housing Service whilst acknowledging other forms of housing tenure within the City and any impacts on the Council Housing Service.

### 4. Report details:

6.1 The Council Housing Strategy sets out the Council's vision and plans for its Council Housing Service over the next 5 years. It provides a guide to the work of the Council and our partners on housing matters.

There are many issues facing the Council and our residents including significant new legislation and guidance that has been and will continue to be forthcoming, we will be required to address all the requirements to make sure that we provide the best service we can to our tenants.

4.2 There are 5 key objectives set out in the strategy. These are:

- Enhancing Resident Experience
- Providing the Right Homes in the right Places
- Providing Value for Money Services
- Supporting our residents
- Ensuring the Safety of our Homes and Residents

For each priority we have set out where we are currently, where we want to be, how we will get there and how will we know we have got there. If the strategy is adopted the required actions will be added to the Housing Service Improvement Plan.

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?**

7.1 The delivery of this strategy will contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan, in particular the strategic priority of "housing and building great neighbourhoods".

7.2 The delivery of the objectives within this strategy accord with the principles of being a well-run council as set out in the Corporate Plan. For example value for money services and well managed assets.

## **6. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?**

8.1 Council housing represents approximately 10% of the cities homes with a need for more affordable housing. The risks are greater by not having a strategy with clear objectives in place.

8.2 With the introduction of more stringent regulation in the affordable housing sector there is a risk by not having a strategy agreed which sets out the next 5 years for the service ensuring we are regulation ready and fit for purpose.

## **7. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)**

11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
- advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
- foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.

11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers), sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 No potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because the report is for noting only

## **8. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

12.1 Important to complete this section in light of the Council declaring a Climate Emergency. Consider whether the recommendations you are making in the report will help, hinder or have no direct impact on delivering our carbon reduction target (carbon neutral by 2030).

12.2 You should think about things like:-

- Travel (and, if travel is unavoidable, whether lower carbon options will be pursued e.g. walking, public transport, electric car);
- Infrastructure (e.g. LED lighting, energy efficient heating/hot water, solar panels, electric car charging points);
- Waste (e.g. recycling, composting, reducing non-recyclable waste); and
- Any other specific carbon reduction initiatives.

12.3 If there are no direct carbon/environmental implications for the decision please state:

No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

Director Ian Collinson

Report Author: Lawrence Blake

## **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)**

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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