

This report is public	
New Cherwell District Council Housing Strategy 2025-2030	
Committee	Executive
Date of Committee	9 September 2024
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Portfolio Holder for Housing, Councillor Chris Pruden
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	9 August 2024
Report of	Assistant Director Wellbeing and Housing - Nicola Riley

Purpose of report

To seek approval to consult on a new Housing Strategy 2025-30.

1. Recommendations

The Executive resolves:

- 1.1 To approve the commencement of public consultation on the reviewed and amended Housing Strategy 2025-30.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Housing Strategy describes the approach that Cherwell plans to take to meet its housing objectives and challenges over the coming 5 years. It is part of the Council's statutory duties to set objectives, targets and policies for how the authority intends to manage and deliver its strategic housing role.
- 2.2 The new drafted strategy reflects local and national context in developing its priorities and objectives.

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary
Finance	There are no new financial implications outlined in the report as the existing arrangement is captured in the base revenue budget Kelly Wheeler, Finance Business Partner, 29 July 2024
Legal	The Housing Strategy is a necessary forward plan, an ECIA is required and has been completed and public consultation will take place before the strategy is finalised therefore there are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

	Alison Coles, Legal Services Operations Manager, Solicitor, 31 July 2024			
Risk Management	<p>As it is part of our statutory housing duties, we should review current policy to ensure it is compliant with legislation, is fair and inclusive and is meeting the needs of the district.</p> <p>Therefore, a regular review of this policy is prudent as part of mitigating actions of non-compliance. This and any further risks will be managed through the Service Operational Risk and will be escalated to the Leadership Risk Register as and when deemed necessary.</p> <p>Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 29 July 2024</p>			
Impact Assessments	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equality Impact	x			<p>An Equalities and Climate Impact Assessment is included as an Appendices of the report. This review has been developed in line with the principles of our Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion framework.</p> <p>Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 29 July 2024</p>
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?	x			
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?	x			
Climate & Environmental Impact		x		Not applicable
ICT & Digital Impact		x		Not applicable
Data Impact		x		Not applicable
Procurement & subsidy		x		Not applicable
Council Priorities	Housing that meets your needs			
Human Resources	Not applicable			
Property	Not applicable			

Consultation & Engagement	The recommendations within the report are for the new Housing Strategy to proceed to public consultation.
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Supporting Information

3. Background

3.1 The Council develops and delivers a Housing Strategy in accordance with its statutory duties. The last strategy span was from 2019 to 2024. Therefore, a review and development of a new strategy is required to reflect changing national and local context over recent years and develop new priorities and objectives to deliver.

4. Details

4.1 The Housing Strategy provides a strategic overview of local housing issues and set out what both the Council and our partners will need to do or consider to address them. It will help shape the housing services and policies, from our role in providing services to vulnerable people, to how we ensure appropriate management of housing within the district and taking into account our role as the local planning authority.

4.2 The draft strategy has 3 main priorities for delivery and on which actions are based. These 3 priorities are

- Prioritise the delivery of homes that people can afford and that are suitable for the needs of the community
- Improving the existing condition of properties within Cherwell. Ensuring high property standards and properties that are fit for the future, working towards net zero
- Promoting health and wellbeing through housing, tackling homelessness, improving support. Helping to create sustainable communities

4.3 The priorities have been produced following a review of the housing pressures and challenges nationally and locally. These include, affordability of housing, supply of affordable and social housing, increasing homelessness rates and the discrepancy locally between earnings and housing costs.

4.4 Subject to the report being approved, the proposed draft Housing Strategy will undergo public consultation, the consultation will last for 8 weeks. The public consultation phase will include all the major stakeholders involved in housing. This includes partners that work for Registered Providers of social housing and statutory agencies, such as health and social care.

4.5 When the consultation is complete and the responses analysed, the final version of the strategy will return to the Executive for approval.

4.6 When the final strategy is adopted, an action plan will be developed to accompany the strategy, based around the 3 priority themes. An annual progress report will be provided to Overview and Scrutiny.

5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

5.1 The following alternative options have been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1: Not bring forward a new Housing Strategy. This is rejected as it is a statutory duty that the Council produces and reviews its housing strategy.

6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 It is important that the Council has up to date policies for its statutory and key service areas and it is important that they are legislatively and operationally sound. A periodic review of policies is therefore appropriate.

Decision Information

Key Decision	Yes
Subject to Call in	Yes
If not, why not subject to call in	N/A
Ward(s) Affected	All wards

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	New Housing Strategy 2025-2030 – draft for consultation
Appendix 2	Equalities and Climate Impact Assessment
Background Papers	None
Reference Papers	None
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