

This report is public	
New Cherwell District Council Housing Strategy 2025-2030	
Committee	Overview and Scrutiny
Date of Committee	15 October 2024
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Portfolio holder for Housing - Councillor Nick Cotter
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	3 October 2024
Report of	Nicola Riley - Assistant Director, Wellbeing and Housing

Purpose of report

To present to the Committee a new draft Housing Strategy.

1. Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolves:

- 1.1 To consider and comment on the contents of the new drafted Housing Strategy and make any recommendations to the Executive.

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.
- 2.3 A public and stakeholder consultation is currently taking place on the draft policy ahead of the Executive meeting in January.

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	<p>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.</p> <p>Alison Coles, Legal Services Operations Manager, Solicitor, 31 July 2024</p>			
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	A decision to undertake a public consultation was resolved by the Executive on 9 September 2024.			

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.
- 3.2 Following approval by the Executive on 9 September, the new scheme will undergo public and stakeholder consultation. Following conclusion of the consultation and consideration of comments, a final version will be presented for approval at the Executive.

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 The consultation 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. A summary of the consultation comments and actions taken as a result will accompany the final version of the Housing Strategy presented at the Executive.

5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

5.1 Not applicable.

6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 It is important that the Council has up to date policies and procedures 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. Where appropriate, it is important that consultation is undertaken on new policy to ensure that the views of stakeholders are understood and taken account of.

Decision Information

Key Decision	Not applicable
Subject to Call in	Not applicable
If not, why not subject to call in	Not applicable
Ward(s) Affected	All wards

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	New Housing Strategy 2025-30 – draft for consultation
Appendix 2	Equalities and Climate Impact Assessment
Background Papers	None

Reference Papers	None
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