

# HOUSING STRATEGY 2019-2023 ACTIONS UPDATE

## Housing Committee – 24 March 2022

Report of: Alison Boote – Executive Head of Communities

Purpose: For information

Publication status: Unrestricted

Wards affected: All

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### Executive summary:

The Committee adopted the Housing Strategy 2019-2023 and accompanying Action Plan in January 2019. This report provides an update to the Committee on the progress made in delivering the action plan for the third year.

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### This report supports the Council's priority of:

- Building a better Council
- Creating the homes, infrastructure and environment we need
- Supporting economic recovery in Tandridge
- Becoming a greener, more sustainable District

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### Recommendation to Committee:

That the Committee notes the contents of this report and progress made to date.

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### Reason for recommendation:

It was agreed upon adoption of the Housing Strategy and accompanying Action Plan on 15 January 2019 for the Action Plan to be reviewed on an annual basis. This is the third annual review since adoption of the strategy and action plan.

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## **Introduction and background**

1. The Council's Housing Strategy 2019-2023 was adopted by members of the Housing Committee on 15 January 2019. The Strategy and accompanying Action Plan sets out how the Council intends to meet the key current and anticipated housing challenges in the District for the next five years.
2. The Strategy contains the following three strategic housing objectives which will be achieved through the actions set out in the accompanying Action Plan:
  - Strategic Objective 1: Building the homes we need;
  - Strategic Objective 2: Improving the quality and use of existing housing stock;
  - Strategic Objective 3: Meeting the housing needs of vulnerable households.
3. Appendix A is the accompanying Action Plan that sets out the steps necessary to achieve the aims of the Strategy. This has been amended to include an update on the progress made in the three years since adoption of the Housing Strategy. The Action Plan will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis.

### Update to the Action Plan

4. The Council are progressing well with the actions set out in the Housing Strategy, in the context of resource issues in both Housing Development and the Community Surveyors Teams. The implications of the Covid 19 pandemic have also caused issues and delays in supplies of materials. Several actions are being looked at through joint working, be it through a shared service or through collaboration with service providers and / or the health and wellbeing board. These relationships are continuing to be strengthened and there is ongoing work to improve effective lines of reporting.
5. The strategy is a five-year plan and therefore there are several actions that have not progressed. These specific actions are to be undertaken later in the life of the strategy.

## **Key implications**

### **Comments of the Chief Finance Officer**

The Strategy ensures there is a plan in place to record and allow the team to follow the progress they are making. This then captures and informs the team what monies are required to allow them to deliver the strategy. The monies required are then included in the Budgets for both revenue and capital and therefore avoiding budget over and under spends. Once the budgets are set the team must ensure they monitor spend against these and report as early as possible any adverse or favourable variances. The future years spend help to build and refine the Medium Term Financial Strategy therefore giving the Council a longer-term view of its financial requirements.

### **Comments of the Head of Legal Services**

In relation to the update on the Housing Strategy and Action Plan set out within this report there are no specific legal considerations to note at this stage. The review of activities against the Strategy Action Plan identifies the aims and objectives of the strategy and ensures they are being delivered in a timely way. The action plan supports the Council in meeting statutory housing and homelessness duties, gives direction for improvement, and ensures that focus in housing development and private sector housing remains in line with housing need.

### **Equality**

The draft Housing Strategy relates to a number of different groups and is therefore inclusive to all groups. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken at the time of writing the strategy.

### **Climate change**

Whilst self-build and custom build houses have the potential to be made with more sustainable materials and apply energy efficiency technology, this is an update report and does not propose policy. Therefore, there are no significant environmental / sustainability implications associated with this report.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A – Housing Strategy Action Plan Update Year 3

### **Background papers**

Housing Strategy 2019-2023