

**EXTRAORDINARY CABINET**

Wednesday, 24 May 2017

**EAST SUFFOLK HOUSING STRATEGY - 2017- 2023 (REP 1551)****EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The draft East Suffolk Housing Strategy 2017 – 2023 (Appendix A) has been prepared in consultation with key stakeholder partners, members, tenants and officers, and outlines the key priorities, for the next 6 years, for housing provision in East Suffolk. Cabinet are asked to comment on the strategy and the proposed consultation process.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards in the District
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Housing
<b>Supporting Officer:</b>	Justin Hunt Head of Housing 01502 523144 <a href="mailto:Justin.hunt@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">Justin.hunt@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a>

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have a key leadership role in supporting the provision of good quality housing that meets the needs of local people and underpins successful communities and economic growth. This strategy sets out East Suffolk's ambitions and priorities for housing services from 2017 to 2023 in order to achieve its vision to maintain and sustainably improve the quality of life for everyone growing up in, living in, working in and visiting East Suffolk.
- 1.2 The East Suffolk Business Plan 2015-2023 recognises the challenge of providing new homes which are affordable and local to our communities and sets as one of the 10 critical success factors to support the delivery of its shared vision as 'Improved access to appropriate housing to meet existing and future needs, including more affordable homes for local people'.
- 1.3 The East Suffolk Housing Strategy (Appendix A) has been prepared in consultation with key stakeholder partner agencies, members, tenants and officers, by Rosemary Westbrook, Independent Consultant in Housing and Social Care.

## **2 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?**

- 2.1 East Suffolk Business Plan objectives:
- 2.2 Improved access to appropriate housing to meet existing and future needs, including affordable homes for local people.
- 2.3 Increase the opportunities and number of affordable homes (freehold, self-build, shared and rental) for our local young people and those in their senior years, through a revised substantially improved support package for our local exceptions sites policy and communities.
- 2.4 Develop even closer working relationships with other Suffolk councils on strategic planning and in reviewing the Councils Local Plans.
- 2.5 Continue to reduce the number of long term empty properties

## **3 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The Deregulation Act 2015 removed the Secretary of State's powers to require local authorities in England to prepare a housing strategy. However, this change does not prevent local authorities from preparing housing strategies as they see fit.
- 3.2 The East Suffolk Housing Strategy reflects the Council's statutory housing obligations.

## **4 CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Consultation with key Stakeholder Partners, Members, Tenants and Officers has been widely carried out by Rosemary Westbrook, Independent Consultant in Housing and Social Care.
- 4.2 Interviews were conducted via face to face or by telephone with Rosemary Westbrook. As well as individual interviews with consultees taking place a number of workshop/meetings took place with members and leading officers.
- 4.3 Following the review by Waveney District Council's Cabinet on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and Suffolk Coastal District Council's Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Waveney as a stock owning authority will be asked to approve the Housing Strategy at Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017. A period

of consultation will take place between 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017 with key stakeholders and the wider public through the East Suffolk website.

## **5 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 There is no longer a statutory requirement for housing authorities to have a Housing Strategy. However, the adoption of a Housing Strategy is recommended to assist Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council in delivering the critical success factors identified for Housing in the East Suffolk Business Plan 2015-2023.

## **6 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 To meet the East Suffolk Business Plan's 'housing' actions and to meet the future housing requirements for East Suffolk and the need to make best use of public resources.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That Cabinet approves the draft East Suffolk Housing Strategy for consultation.
2. That Cabinet recommends the Housing Strategy is presented to Full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017, subject to any amendments made through the consultation process.

### **APPENDICES**

<b>Appendix A</b>	Draft East Suffolk Housing Strategy 2017 - 2023
<b>Appendix B</b>	Draft East Suffolk Housing Strategy 2017 – 2023 Executive Summary

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None