

Blaby District Council
Scrutiny Commission

Date of Meeting 4 November 2020
Title of Report **Draft Housing Strategy**
Report Author John Crane – Housing Strategy Team Leader

1. What is this report about?

- 1.1 The report provides detail of the Council's new draft Housing Strategy, its new priorities and outlines our plans for housing and housing related services for the next 5 years.

2. Recommendation(s) to Scrutiny Commission

- 2.1 That Scrutiny Commission considers the report and makes comment upon the content of the draft Housing Strategy (to follow).
- 2.2 Scrutiny Commission are asked to recommend to Council that the draft Housing Strategy be approved.

3. Reason for Decision(s) Recommended

- 3.1 There is an expectation on the Council to develop and adopt a Local Housing Strategy that sets out how we intend to deliver the strategic housing function over the next 5 years.

4. Matters to consider

4.1 Background

In its strategic housing and enabling role the Local Authority is required to assess housing need in the District and have an understanding of housing and related issues across all tenures.

The draft housing strategy has been progressed at a time of considerable difficulty given the implications of the worldwide pandemic and the effect that this has had on our housing service, most notably the homelessness service. There also continues to be changes to national housing and planning policy, these changes will add challenge to the way that we have successfully enabled affordable housing in the past.

Given these current considerations and having worked closely with our

partners over the last 5 years we have decided that the new strategy will have three strategic priorities reflecting the areas which matter the most and match the fundamental housing needs of the District, the three new strategic priority areas are:

Strategic Priority 1 – Increasing the Supply of Affordable Housing

Strategic Priority 2 – Provision of Specialist Housing for Vulnerable Groups

Strategic Priority 3 – Prevent Homelessness and end Rough Sleeping in the District

The draft strategy gives more detail regarding the above themes and explains how we will, along with our partners tackle these ambitious priorities. The strategy also gives examples of significant success that has been achieved over the previous 5 year Housing Strategy period. This includes the building of over 640 new affordable homes, including a new extra care scheme for our ageing population, further Rural Exception Sites as well as homes built specifically for people with dementia. This new strategy outlines our intent to build upon these previous achievements and continue to make a difference to the people of our District that need it most.

4.2 Proposal(s)

That Members consider the draft housing strategy 2020 – 2025 and advise of any further comments.

4.3 Relevant Consultations

- Portfolio Holder for Housing and Communities
- Registered Provider Partners
- Leicestershire Rural Housing Partnership
- National Landlords Association
- Social Services
- Private Developers

4.4 Significant Issues

In preparing this report, the author has considered issues related to Human Rights, Legal Matters, Human Resources, Equalities, Public Health Inequalities, and Climate Local and there are no areas of concern.

5. What will it cost and are there opportunities for savings?

5.1 There are no further costs attributed to this report

6. What are the risks and how can they be reduced?

6.1 No risks have been identified

