

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 12 OCTOBER 2010

**UPDATING THE HOUSING STRATEGY FOR TELFORD & WREKIN –
REVISED VERSION (FOLLOWING CONSULTATION)**

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC HOUSING MANAGER

PART A – SUMMARY REPORT

1.0 SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS

The draft updated Housing Strategy for Telford & Wrekin was approved for Consultation by Cabinet in May 2010. The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation and to present an updated draft Housing Strategy for approval.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the attached revised Housing Strategy for Telford & Wrekin be approved.

3.0 SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Priority Plan objective(s)?	
	Yes	<i>The Strategy supports the delivery of all objectives within the Housing, Regeneration and Prosperity Priority Plan.</i> <i>It will also make a significant contribution to other Priority Plans, including Adult Care & Support, Children & Young People and Environment & Rural Area.</i>

	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	<i>The Strategy will impact on all individuals and groups of people in the borough in some way.</i>
FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT	No	There are no direct financial implications arising from the approval of the draft Housing Strategy. There will be financial implications of delivering projects and programmes in accordance with the Strategy. Financial support will be provided as appropriate, and the financial implications presented for approval through future reports or business cases. JAC16/09/10
LEGAL ISSUES	No	<i>The publication of a formal Housing Strategy is not a statutory requirement of a local authority.</i>
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	<i>The Housing Strategy provides the focus for the mobilisation and co-ordination of internal and external resources to meet the needs of the borough.</i>
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	<i>The Housing Strategy will potentially impact on the whole of the borough.</i>

PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

- 4.1 Local authorities are expected to have robust and up to date strategies for key areas of service provision, including housing. Telford & Wrekin Council is currently in the process of updating its overarching Housing Strategy. The new Strategy covers all housing tenures and runs from 2010 – 2013. It brings together a number of supporting strategies, including Homelessness; Supporting People; Housing Renewal; Housing, Care & Support and Affordable Warmth.
- 4.2 The Strategy also make close links with other service delivery area strategies including land use planning, regeneration, economic development and children & young people. In addition, it is linked closely to the Local Investment Plan for the borough (which sets out a delivery framework for elements of the new Strategy) and the Council's local Priority Plans.
- 4.3 The Cabinet has previously considered the Council's draft Housing Strategy and approved it for consultation with a range of partners and stakeholders, both internal and external. This consultation ran for 6 weeks from 5 July to 13 August. More than 20 responses were received from individuals and on behalf of organisations or groups of organisations. The main observations and comments made during this process can be summarised as follows:

- Document comprehensive and glossary of terms helpful
- Recognition of links between housing and other services (e.g. health) and support for a number of the stated interventions (e.g. domestic energy efficiency, provision for the ageing and vulnerable population),
- Update references to external context, e.g. public expenditure context, the economy, changes to regional governance and Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), formation of Local Enterprise Partnership (LEPs), changes to National Health Service (NHS) structures and working arrangements, potential new models of service provision/ delivery and other national policy initiatives/changes.
- Strengthen links to other service issues. e.g. Local Development Framework (LDF), supporting people to live at home and remain independent, personalisation of Social Care services, Climate Change (including carbon reduction and green infrastructure)
- Strengthen references to a number of policy areas, including existing housing stock (including improving energy efficiency) and working proactively with private sector landlords.
- A number of qualifications of factual points and presentational issues

4.4 The attached Strategy has now been updated to reflect the comments made during the consultation. Subject to further Cabinet comment and approval, the attached revised Housing Strategy will be finalised and placed on the Council's website. It will also be distributed to, or brought to the attention of, the consultees and other bodies.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

5.1 The revised Housing Strategy has been used to pilot a new Multi-Impact Assessment process.

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

11th May 2010 – CB 202

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- *A Question of Balance*. Housing Strategy for Telford & Wrekin, 2003 -2006 (formally extended to 2008/09).
- *People and Places - Draft Housing Strategy, 2010 - 2013* (Cabinet 11th May 2010).

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