

Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	N/A
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non-Key

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 This report outlines the Memorandum of Understanding and the Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan, both of which have been developed, together with partners, by the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership and subject to a 10 week consultation ending on 31st December 2016.
- 1.2 The Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership was established in 2014 and is chaired by Kevin Dicks, CEO of Bromsgrove District and Redditch Borough Councils. The group comprises of a range of strategic partners including adult services & health, childrens services, quality leads from the Clinical Commissioning Groups, probation, the DWP, Homes & Communities Agency, local authority strategic housing officers and third sector representatives. The group aims to develop, lead and drive the Worcestershire strategies and strategic plans which relate to housing, housing related support needs and the growth and economic success agenda to ensure a joined up approach across the county.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is asked to **RESOLVE** that

- 2.1 the Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan be endorsed;
- 2.2 the Worcestershire Memorandum of Understanding be agreed.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from supporting the plan or memorandum of understanding, as this work will be done within existing budgets. A more joined up approach should enable agencies to use their resources more efficiently in the future.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 Since the Worcestershire Housing Strategy was published in 2011 the government have made major changes around health and housing, and the introduction of legislation ranging from the

Care Act 2014 to the Housing and Planning Act 2016 have profoundly changed both the housing and health environments in which Local Authorities are now operating. The new Housing Partnership Plan seeks to capture this legislation in one place and identify the challenges that local authorities will face going forward as a result of the changes. It also lays the foundations for action-planning across agencies to respond to housing pressures at a local level.

Service / Operational Implications

In recent years there has been a concerted push by central government to join up health and care provision and to promote individuals wellbeing – examples include the Care Act 2014, the NHS 5 Year Forward Plan, and the Better Care Fund. Nationally the role housing can play in improving health and wellbeing is seen as important and housing services / providers are recognised as a partner in achieving improved health outcomes. The local MofU and Housing Partnership Plan seek to capture this role and translate it at a local level into a set of jointly agreed actions.

- 3.3 The vision for the Partnership Plan is **“the right home environment is essential to health, wealth and wellbeing throughout life”**. This vision is supported by three key priorities. We will;
- Create a partnership approach to enable people to live as independently as possible.
 - Drive the growth of the right type of homes
 - Improve homes and transform places
- 3.4 From these three priorities a number of high level actions have been outlined in the Housing Partnership Plan and project plans and/or proposals will subsequently be developed to deliver on these actions, where these are not already included in existing strategies and plans of local authorities or their partners.
- 3.5 The Partnership Plan outlines the following outcomes achieved through a good supply of the right housing;
- Helps people to live as independently as possible,
 - Helps people to live close to family and community support
 - Enables choice
 - Reduces unnecessary demands on services
 - Prevents homelessness
 - Improves peoples health and wellbeing, especially those with the poorest health outcomes
 - Supports educational attainment, access to employment and the development of a healthy workforce
- 3.6 The Partnership Plan gives some context to issues by outlining current trends in housing including around stock numbers and affordability. The plan highlights the overall housing shortage in Worcestershire that leads to many issues including homelessness and the poor condition of much of the housing stock that leads to ill health. The future challenges that the public sector face includes on going austerity measures including cuts to Local Authority budgets, welfare reform and a move away from grant funded social rented housing to low cost home ownership.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.7 The draft Partnership Plan has been developed in consultation with a number of statutory and non-statutory bodies, following an event held in June 2016 and focuses on supporting the needs of some of the most vulnerable individuals and groups across the county.

- 3.8 This Partnership Plan is was subject to a ten week consultation period ending on 31st December 2016 and has been circulated to various organisations within each Local Authority area and available to members of the public through the Council's website. The consultation document can be found on www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JSKJWL6

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Supporting the plan and memorandum of understanding presents no risks to the Council. The plan supports several of the council's strategic purposes, including finding somewhere to live, and living independently.

5. APPENDICES

Appendix One: Worcestershire Memorandum of Understanding and Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan 2016

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

7. KEY

N/A

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Derek Allen
email: derek.allen@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel.: 01527 64252 ext 1278