

## **Executive Committee**

27<sup>th</sup> October 2020

### **Redditch Borough Council Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2020-2024**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Cllr Craig Warhurst
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis
Wards Affected	All
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Key Decision	No

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 The Council has a statutory duty to have a homelessness strategy and it is now becoming standard practice for local authorities to combine this with an overview of their wider strategic aims in the local housing market, thereby creating a synergised Housing and Homelessness Strategy.
- 1.2 The new draft Redditch Borough Council Housing and Homelessness Strategy adopts this synergised approach. It looks at some of the main challenges in the national and Worcestershire housing markets and sets out the local position in Redditch, together with the actions the Council intends to take to achieve its strategic purpose of 'Finding somewhere to live.'
- 1.3 The draft strategy also explains how the Council's local housing priorities connect to the wider Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership Plan, a high-level housing plan for the county, which steers the general direction of the travel for all the councils in housing terms. It also makes links with the council's recovery plan in relation to the covid19 pandemic.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 **The Executive Committee is asked to approve the draft RBC Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2020-2024 for a period of public consultation for four weeks**
- 2.2 **Agree that a final version of the Housing Strategy, having considered any relevant consultation responses, will be brought back to Executive for approval**

#### **3. KEY ISSUES**

##### **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with adopting this draft strategy.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.2 Under the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, the Council has a statutory duty to have a homelessness strategy, and this is contained within the Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership Plan, which the Council endorsed in 2017.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.3 The strategy sets out some of the main challenges in the national housing market, and looks at the role of stock-holding local authorities within this. The document also locates the Redditch market within the county-wide context and considers the specifics around home ownership, private renting, social housing, homelessness, planning and growth. The document contains a summary of the main challenges facing the council locally, and sets out a number of actions to tackle these issues, including those relating to the council's housing growth programme. The strategy will be reviewed annually to ensure that it remains relevant and that these actions are having a positive impact on the borough, and to explore any blocks to progress. The draft strategy will be the subject of a four week public consultation prior to formal adoption.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.4 These were covered in the Equality Impact Assessment carried out for the original Housing Partnership Plan. This will be reviewed to consider any additional impacts as a result of the strategy. The provision of good quality, affordable housing should help tackle inequality and support diversity.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

Failing to influence the housing market in a strategic way could lead to a rise in homelessness locally, and impact upon the delivery of affordable housing. There are also risks to housing posed by the coronavirus pandemic so this strategy links closely with the council's Recovery and Restoration Plan 2020.

**5. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Appendix A – Draft Redditch Borough Council Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2020-2024  
Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership Plan

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Strategic purpose of 'Finding somewhere to live.'  
Redditch Borough Council Recovery and Restoration Plan 2020

**6. KEY**

None.

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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