

WORCESTERSHIRE HOUSING STRATEGY 2021-2040

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Craig Warhurst
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Judith Willis
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Wards Affected ALL	
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finding somewhere to live,• Aspiration, work & financial independence,• living independent, active & healthy lives• Communities which are safe, well maintained & green.
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	
This report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph(s) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive RECOMMEND that:-

- 1) The Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2021 – 2040 be adopted.**
- 2) Officers be asked to develop a Borough Level Action Plan with consideration given to the proposals in this Strategy.**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council adopted a Worcestershire Housing Partnership Plan in 2017 which set out the strategic direction for housing across Worcestershire. This Plan has been reviewed and partners from across the County have produced a Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2021 – 2040 attached as Appendix 1.

- 2.2 The Strategy sets out a 20-year vision for the County, recognising that decisions made today will have a significant impact on housing in the future.
- 2.3 The strategy has been developed with representation from the 7 Worcestershire Local Authorities, NHS providers, local housing providers and the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (WLEP). It has undergone consultation across a range of stakeholders in the County to ensure that it reflects the needs, challenges, and opportunities in Worcestershire.
- 2.4 The strategy serves several purposes:
- It is a vision for housing in the county to 2040.
 - It provides a statement of intent focused on specific priorities
 - It provides the foundation of a set of more detailed action plans to cause the necessary changes and actions to happen and be delivered.
 - It provides an opportunity to evolve Worcestershire's housing market offer to meet the needs of its citizens and business over the longer term.
- 2.5 The strategy sets out the vision for housing in Worcestershire:

Worcestershire will be known for excellent housing. Everyone will have choices about how and where they live. Local homes will be warm, healthy and will lead the way towards Net Zero. Worcestershire housing will add to a better quality of life.

- 2.6 The vision will be delivered through four priority areas, which are:
- a) **Economic growth and jobs-** this priority focusses on the relationship between housing and the economy and the need to supply the right housing for people who live and work in Worcestershire.
 - b) **Quality and standards-** this priority focusses on ensuring that housing in Worcestershire is as good as it can be and that the County takes advantage of innovation in how houses are planned, built and upgraded.
 - c) **Health and wellbeing-** this priority focusses on the importance of affordable, healthy housing that supports everybody, whatever their needs or circumstances as well as creating and

maintaining sustainable communities.

- d) Net Zero carbon and climate change-** this priority focusses on ensuring that housing in Worcestershire is decarbonized in line with national targets.

2.7 To accompany the Strategy a Countywide action plan has been developed with each Local Authority having responsibility to develop its own action plan to set out how it intends to meet and contribute towards the ambitions of the Strategy locally.

2.8 Due to the strategy setting out a 20-year ambition, the proposals for delivery are at three levels of detail:

- a) A 100-day plan to create momentum and promote awareness
- b) A 5-year action plan setting out key priorities across each of the four priority areas. These actions will be delivered through Countywide delivery groups.
- c) A twenty-year road map outlining how the components of the strategy will support the delivery of the vision.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

3.1 Upon approval of the Strategy, Officers will develop an individual Borough-level action plan.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with adopting this strategy

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The deregulation Act 2015 abolished the statutory requirement for Council's to produce a Housing Strategy.

5.2 However, it is recognised across all the Worcestershire Council's and partners that Housing is key to the quality of life of residents and that this Strategy will provide future a vision and future direction to achieve this.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

6.1 The Strategy will support the Council's following Strategic purposes:

- Finding somewhere to live,
- Aspiration, work & financial independence,
- Living independent, active & healthy lives
- Communities which are safe, well maintained & green.

Climate Change Implications

6.2 Carbon reduction is a key feature of the Strategy with the fourth priority being 'Net Zero carbon and climate Change. This provides an ambition to reduce the impact that dwellings have climate change and help the Council meets its Climate Change Strategy vision.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.3 There are a range of equality considerations which have been taken into account in the development of the strategy. This includes the changing demographics across the County where it is projected that there will be an increasing ageing population and therefore a greater demand on later living housing provision.

6.4 Section 3.1 of the Strategy sets our population and Economics information which is then addressed within the Strategy.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 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.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A – Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2021 to 2024

Executive Committee
2023

25th July

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Craig Warhurst	4.07.23
Lead Director / Head of Service	Judith Willis, Head of Community & Housing Services	21.06.23
Financial Services	Peter Carpenter	21.06.23
Legal Services	Claire Felton	21.06.23
Policy Team (if equalities implications apply)		
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)	Matthew Bough	21.06.23