

 <b>Health Scrutiny Committee</b> <b>17 January 2017</b>		<b>Agenda Item No. 5</b>
<b>Title</b>	Draft Housing & Homelessness Strategy 2017	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Charlotte Rowan-Lancaster Extension 6335 <a href="mailto:Charlotte.lancaster@warwickdc.gov.uk">Charlotte.lancaster@warwickdc.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	All	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	None	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Housing & Homelessness Strategy 2017 background information: <a href="https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/download/s/file/3511/hahs2017_background_information">https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/download/s/file/3511/hahs2017_background_information</a>	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes/No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	Yes. Ref 822
<b>Equality Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	No
This will be completed once the strategy has been finalised.	

Officer/Councillor Approval		
Officer Approval	Date	Name
Chief Executive/Deputy Chief Executive		Bill Hunt
Head of Service		Bill Hunt
CMT		Chris Elliott
Section 151 Officer		Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer		Andrew Jones
Portfolio Holder(s)		Peter Phillips
Consultation & Community Engagement		
Extensive consultation has been undertaken in preparing the draft strategy as set out in the report.		
Final Decision?		No
<b>Suggested next steps (if not final decision please set out below)</b>		
The final Housing & Homelessness Strategy will go to Executive in March 2017 and then to Council for approval.		

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report explains the process that has been undertaken in developing a new Housing & Homelessness Strategy for 2017 and the steps that are still required for its adoption.
- 1.2 It summarises the key links between housing and health and how these have been incorporated into the draft strategy and gives the Health Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to establish that health and well-being has been fully considered.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the Health Scrutiny Committee confirms that health and well-being has been considered in the emerging Housing & Homelessness Strategy 2017 and provides any further comments from a health and well-being perspective that it wishes to be considered in the final draft.

## **3. Reasons for the Recommendation**

- 3.1 This report is being presented at the request of the Health Scrutiny Committee.

## **4. Policy Framework**

- 4.1 Not applicable: this report does not of itself bring forward policy changes as it is for pre-scrutiny work.

## **5. Budgetary Framework**

- 5.1 Not applicable: this report does not of itself bring forward budget changes as it is for pre-scrutiny work.

## **6. Risks**

- 6.1 Not applicable. This report is to enable pre-scrutiny of the health and well-being dimension of the new Housing & Homelessness Strategy.

## **7. Alternative Option(s) considered**

- 7.1 Not applicable. This report is to enable pre-scrutiny of the health and well-being dimension of the new Housing & Homelessness Strategy.

## **8. Background**

- 8.1 Warwick District Council's current Housing Strategy expires on the 31st March'17 as does the Homelessness Strategy; to provide a sustainable and combined approach moving forward, we are now in the process of producing a joint strategy which is due to run for three years and which will be reviewed annually to ensure it is meeting its given outcomes.
- 8.2 As a local authority we recognise that access to safe, inclusive and affordable housing has a holistic impact not only on the individual or family unit but also

on our wider communities and this ethos has informed not only the new strategy but our broader local policy.

- 8.3 Housing is a key priority within the Sustainable Community Strategy; where our corporate vision is to make the district a great place to live, work and visit. Within this Strategy we aim to promote a further four themes which coincide with housing: Prosperity, Health and well-being, Safer Communities and Sustainability.
- We recognise that housing is a key determinant of health and evidence shows that it can impact on an individual's mental, physical and social wellbeing in a number of different ways, in relation to:
- Housing conditions
  - Housing availability and supply
  - Homelessness and groups with additional needs
  - Housing in the wider environment
- 8.4 We also recognise that housing supply affects health, with a considerable number of households living in temporary accommodation and in overcrowded homes. Lack of security of tenure and short tenancy durations found in the private rented sector may contribute to mental health problems and discourage tenants from taking up home improvement initiatives or reporting problems to a landlord, for fear of being evicted; therefore the action plan we have created aims to address many of these issues.
- 8.5 As an example, actions yet to be agreed but which include:
- Working with DWP and voluntary agencies to ensure residents are aware of Welfare Reform changes and minimise the impact on the sustainability of tenancies
  - Developing a Mental Health Protocol for homeless people
  - Prevention work between WDC Income Team and the Housing Advice team to reduce the number of evictions and prevent homelessness
  - Ensuring we are in the top half of all LAs in our key PIs for empty property management, repairs satisfaction, and income management.
- 8.6 In order to provide a document which is well informed we charted a strategic pathway, gathering background information, insight and evidence which we made accessible to the public for reference; to ensure we are able to meet the needs of our local population effectively.
- 8.7 All evidence gathered via our research was presented on the internet for further consultation; including the presentation of an online survey which was available for comment for a period of 12 weeks.
- 8.8 We reviewed the actions of both previous strategies to explore those which we have achieved and those which still require further exploration.
- 8.9 We have made contact via email with all relevant organisations included in our housing sounding board, as listed: Warwickshire County Council (WCC) Social Care & Health, WCC Public Health, WCC Asylum and Leaving Care Team, Probation Service, Housing associations, Salvation Army, Mayday Trust, Chapter 1, Leamington Night Shelter, Citizens' Advice, Youth Justice Service, Refuge, Warwickshire Supported Lodgings, Mediation, Roof.
- 8.10 The results of the consultation and online survey have then been extrapolated to explore underlying themes and to inform key strategic objectives.

The strategy action plan and draft produced as a result of this process will be presented for discussion at the Housing Advisory Group on the 17th of January and at the Housing Sounding Board on the 18th of January, following on from this an Equality Impact Assessment will be completed. The final draft strategy is due to enter the executive cycle on the 2nd February.