

UPDATE ON THE HOUSING STRATEGY FOR SUNDERLAND 2017 - 2022

Report of the Director of Economy and Place

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to give an update and get feedback from the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on the *Housing Strategy for Sunderland 2017-2022*.

2. Background

- 2.1 A draft *Housing Strategy for Sunderland* went out for consultation during May and June 2017. Scrutiny Committee's views were considered at this time as were the views of 158 respondents. A summary of these responses can be found at https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/media/19404/Summary-consultation-findings/pdf/Summary_Consultation_Findings.pdf. The draft Strategy was amended, where necessary, and as no significant changes were made, Portfolio Holders were consulted and the Strategy was approved and published in September 2017. (<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/housing-strategy>).

3. Delivering the Housing Strategy

- 3.1 Three partner working groups have been established to oversee the delivery of each Chapter/Priority of the Housing Strategy. They are:

- maximising housing growth and increasing the choice of housing;
- making the best use of existing homes and improving our neighbourhoods; and
- supporting vulnerable people to access and maintain housing.

In addition there is a Chairs' group to ensure a co-ordinated approach across the three Chapters/Priorities and to ensure links between the 3 Chapters are made.

- 3.2 The purpose of the working groups is:

- to oversee the delivery of the Housing Strategy over the next 5 years;
- to develop a more detailed action plan for delivery of the Housing Strategy;
- to break down headline actions into years 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;
- to identify quick wins and which projects have already started;
- to identify where resources are missing and seek and secure additional resources to enable delivery of the Housing Strategy;
- to identify whether any key partners are missing; and
- to review the Housing Strategy and revise as necessary.

3.3 Membership of the three working groups is below:

Group One	Group Two	Group Three
Linzi Milley, Regeneration Chair SCC, Housing Strategy SCC Property Services Barratt Homes Hellens HCA Gentoo Bernicia Northern Housing Consortium Slayco Sunter Ltd Miller Homes	Liz McEvoy, Housing Strategy Chair SCC, Environmental Health SCC, Policy Gentoo Bernicia Tyne Housing HCA Back on the Map Public Health National Landlords Association Sunderland University Sunderland Care and Support Northern Housing Association	Marnie Burden, Commissioning Adult Services Chair SCC, Housing Strategy Home Improvement Agency SCC, Adult Services SCC, Together for Children Public Health Gentoo Living Bernicia Centrepont Salvation Army Changing Lives Sunderland People First HCA DWP Job Centre Plus Homeless Link Age UK Nacro Northern Housing Consortium Northumbria Police Private landlord rep

3.4 There are some issues around finding the correct representative from health for working groups 2 and 3 and a presentation on the Housing Strategy is to be made to the Health and Well Being Board and its views will be sought.

3.5 Working groups meet monthly and final draft action plans have been developed and will be completed and presented to the internal officer Strategic Housing Board in January 2018. Chairs meetings are held monthly to identify any overlaps in the three chapters.

3.6 Delivery will be monitored through the partner working groups but also at a strategic level by the Strategic Housing Board which is comprised of Heads of Service with a remit for housing. The role of Housing Board is to:

- monitor the delivery of the Housing Strategy;
- agree timescales for the delivery of key actions;
- assist with resourcing key delivery priorities;
- assist with any blockages to delivery for agreed priorities; and
- agree any revisions to the Housing Strategy (after review).

3.7 The Housing Strategy for Sunderland is also monitored by Sunderland's Housing Champion, the Portfolio Holder for Health, Housing and Adult Services. This is carried out on a monthly basis. The Strategy will also be monitored by the Place and People Boards and by both Scrutiny Committees.

4. Conclusion and Next Steps

- 4.1 In 2018, the role of the partnership working groups will move to overseeing delivery of Years 1 and 2 of the Housing Strategy and promoting “quick wins”.
- 4.2 A presentation will be made to the Health and Well-being Board in January 2018 to secure membership of the most relevant health representatives for the partnership working groups.
- 4.3 The Housing Strategy will be monitored throughout the year by the Strategic Housing Board, the Housing Champion, Scrutiny Committees and People and Place Boards.
- 4.4 Although the Housing Strategy has a life-span of 5 years, due to the frequent changes in housing legislation and because it is a new strategy, it will be reviewed one year after publication in consultation with partners and ward members. Revisions will be made if necessary, after agreement by the Strategic Housing Board and the Housing Champion.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Economic Prosperity Scrutiny Committee note the update and provide feedback on the delivery and governance arrangements for the Housing Strategy for Sunderland.

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