



Report to: Cabinet Meeting - 11 July 2023

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Lee Brazier, Housing

Director Lead: Suzanne Shead, Director – Housing, Health & Wellbeing

Lead Officer: Cara Clarkson, Business Manager - Regeneration & Housing Strategy, Ext. 5923

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open report, key decision
Report Title	Newark and Sherwood’s Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan 2023 – 2028
Purpose of Report	To present the new Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan for 2023 – 2028. The Strategy/Plan has been developed in consultation with tenants and residents, officers, and key stakeholders. Its purpose is to set out the Council’s strategic priorities for housing over the next five years.
Recommendations	That Cabinet approves the Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan 2023 – 2025.
Alternative Options Considered	Continue with no formal Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan and increase the scope for a lack of co-ordination, communication, and accountability for housing services.
Reason for Recommendations	The Council does not currently have a district wide Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan (the previous strategy expired in 2016). This document sets out the key issues affecting housing in Newark and Sherwood and the impact these have on residents, sets out how the Council will work in partnership to address the issues identified and demonstrates alignment with other key strategies and plans.

1.0 Background

1.1 The Newark & Sherwood Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan 2023 – 2028 sets out Newark and Sherwood’s approach to housing in all tenures and in all areas of the district and is supported by a detailed delivery plan. These will be guided by the overarching themes and priorities of the strategy but refreshed every three years to make the plans responsive to the local and national housing landscape.

- 1.2 There is no statutory duty to produce a housing strategy but the new Newark & Sherwood Housing Strategy and Delivery Plan 2023 – 2028 will help our partners, funders and residents understand our housing ambitions for new and existing homes in the district and for the housing services provided for Newark and Sherwood’s residents.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 Key Issues

The Housing Strategy considers the following key challenges: -

- Housing shortages and affordability issues
- The increased role of the private sector and rising rents
- Climate change, carbon neutrality and energy costs
- Ageing populations, health, and disability challenges
- Building safety – increased focus following the Grenfell tragedy
- Quality and age of existing stock including damp and mould issues
- Continuing focus on home ownership
- Policy and legislative drivers i.e., building safety regulations, levelling up and Regeneration Bill, social housing white paper and emerging regulation

2.2 Housing Priorities

The Four priorities of the new housing strategy are: -

- Enabling Housing Growth and regeneration to secure sustainable communities
- Delivering an increased supply of affordable housing
- Meeting housing need for the district’s diverse communities
- Driving Excellence in Housing standards across all tenures

The Housing Strategy reflects the Council’s priority to significantly increase the number of homes for council rent, to provide affordable homes for people on the Housing Register.

3.0 Consultation on Proposal

- 3.1 Between February 2023 and May 2023, consultation was carried out with Newark & Sherwood residents, Council staff and a wide range of partners and stakeholders on the Housing Strategy. Evidence from the following was used to develop the strategy: -

- An online survey
- Staff sessions (with individual business units)
- Presentations to Tenants and Residents Groups (Local Influence Networks)
- Consultation session with Elected Members
- Existing evidence and intelligence
- Consultation with Registered Providers (key partners)

The feedback from this consultation exercise was used to develop the four themes of the housing strategy.

4.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, Officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding, Sustainability, and Crime and Disorder and where appropriate they have referred to these implications and added suitable expert comments where appropriate.

Legal

There are no substantive legal issues arising from the content of this report other than as may be dealt within the body of the report.

As implemented by the Deregulation Act 2015, there is no longer a legal requirement to have a housing strategy; however, such a strategy is deemed as good practice to set out the Council's approach to housing and allows Members to scrutinise delivery.

Financial Implications – FIN23-24/374

There are no direct financial implications due to the recommendations detailed in the report. The HRA Business Plan provides a financial assessment over 30 years, taking into account planned actions as part of the Housing Strategy, and its impact on the management and financing of the Council's housing stock.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken in line with the Public Sector Equality Duty contained within Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.