

Title of Report	PERMISSION TO CONSULT FOR THE REVIEW OF THE HOUSING STRATEGY	
Presented by	Councillor Andrew Woodman Housing and Property Portfolio Holder PH Briefed <input type="checkbox"/>	
Background Papers	<u>Housing Strategy 2021 - 2026</u>	Public Report: Yes
		Key Decision: Yes
Financial Implications	The Housing Strategy will be developed within existing resources and will not have any financial implications.	
	Signed off by the Acting Section 151 Officer: Yes	
Legal Implications	None identified.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: Yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	The review of the Housing Strategy ensures the Council operates effectively, in line with the appropriate standards. There are no direct implications on staffing.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes	
Purpose of Report	To seek approval from Cabinet on the proposed consultation with stakeholders as part of the review of the Housing Strategy.	
Reason for Decision	Cabinet is responsible for approving the content and scope of public consultations. This report ensures Cabinet is informed of the planned consultation with stakeholders as part of the review of the Council's Housing Strategy.	
Recommendations	THAT CABINET: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. APPROVES THE APPROACH TO THE CONSULTATION ON THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING STRATEGY AS SET OUT IN THIS REPORT. 2. DELEGATES AUTHORITY TO THE HEAD OF HOUSING IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO AGREE THE FINAL VERSION OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND FUTURE CONSULTATION THEMES AND MATERIALS AS NECESSARY. 	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1** The Council is responsible for ensuring that its strategies are regularly reviewed to ensure any updates in law are noted so that the Council acts in accordance with them. The current Housing Strategy has come to the end of its lifespan and stakeholders will be consulted to inform the development of the new Strategy.
- 1.2** Whilst not a statutory requirement, it is good practice to develop a housing strategy to identify the housing priorities for the district. There are a wide range of stakeholders who will have views that need to be understood including the public, statutory partners and the voluntary sector. The strategy is also likely to have impacts on the Council's role as a landlord as the Regulator of Social Housing, via the Consumer Standards, promotes that regulated social housing providers undertake genuine tenant involvement in key decisions that affect their homes. Consulting tenants on strategies is how the Housing Service will demonstrate transparency, influence and accountability to its' tenants.
- 1.3** The Council's Constitution requires approval from Cabinet ahead of any consultation being undertaken with stakeholders.

2.0 PROPOSED CONSULTATION

- 2.1** During 2026, work will begin on a new Housing Strategy as the current version has come to the end of its lifespan. As part of the strategy development, a number of consultation activities will be undertaken, and these will build upon feedback received in previous rounds of consultation. The consultation work will be carried out in two distinct phases. Phase one is a broad call for evidence that will allow us to identify potential priorities for the Strategy itself. During this phase the following activities are being planned
- Customer Survey (May 2026) The draft customer survey can be accessed on this link [Housing Strategy Consultation 2026 – Fill out form](#) (please note this is currently locked to internal staff/Councillors only and is not accessible to the public.
 - Stakeholder meetings (June 2026.) We will arrange a number of sessions with key stakeholders and partners to feed back the results of the customer survey and seek ideas and options that could address emerging priorities
 - Member Workshop (July 2026) Finally there will be a session for elected members to receive feedback on the work undertaken to date and identify how that aligns with their own priorities for housing within the district
- 2.2** Information gathered in phase one will be evaluated and a consultation draft of the strategy developed over the summer. Ahead of a more formal consultation the draft strategy will be taken to Cabinet in September 2026 for approval to formally consult. After this consultation has taken place, the strategy will be taken to Community Scrutiny in December 2026 before being taken back to Cabinet for approval in January 2027.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Strategy will be developed within the existing the existing budget envelope.
- 3.2 Any specific changes arising will be delivered through reallocating resources within the existing budget and are not expected to lead to any additional costs arising.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Communities and housing- A well-run council
Policy Considerations:	As detailed in the report
Safeguarding:	N/A
Equalities/Diversity:	An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the review of the strategy. There will be electronic and face to face consultations to maximise the engagement opportunities.
Customer Impact:	Consulting stakeholders ensures their voice is considered as part of the review of the strategy.
Economic and Social Impact:	The Housing Strategy will consider the economic and social impact of housing within the District.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	These may be addressed through themes in the strategy.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	This report is seeking approval to undertake public consultation, including tenants.
Risks:	No risks have been identified in relation to beginning the consultation.
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