

Meeting: Cabinet **Date:** 18 October 2022

Wards affected: All wards

Report Title: Housing Strategy consultation

When does the decision need to be implemented? 18 October 2022

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Swithin Long, Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing

Director/Divisional Director Contact Details: Tara Harris, Divisional Director Community and Customer Services

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet's approval to launch a 6-week public consultation on the Housing Strategy for Torbay

2. Reason for proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 Better inform the Council about what the public and our communities think about our priorities, and enlighten the decision making process
- 2.2 Give housing professionals the opportunity to ask the public, stakeholders and partners what can be done to improve the housing offer in Torbay
- 2.3 Gain a better insight as to how impact of the C-19 Pandemic, the housing crisis and climate emergency has affected service delivery, as well as any wider implications for the economy, health and social care in our communities
- 2.4 Raise awareness about how the Council proposes to tackle the housing and climate crisis
- 2.5 Develop on-going conversations with individuals, groups and organisations to help drive the Council's housing ambitions and help 'Torbay thrive'
- 2.6 Realise the Council's commitment to listening and learning from local people and asking their views to improve local areas, as well as our services and policies

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the draft Housing Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved for a 6-week public consultation.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Draft Housing Strategy

Background Documents

Not applicable

Supporting Information

The Housing Strategy is the over-arching strategic document that pulls together all aspects of the Council's strategic housing function. It sits below and aligns with our Community and Corporate Plan and Local Plan. It sits within the Council's policy framework and provides the context for other plans policies and strategies, such as the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy, the Empty Homes Policy, the Temporary Accommodation Strategy etc

The Strategy supports the Community and Corporate Plan 2019-2023 to 'improve the delivery, affordability and quality of housing', 'regenerate and re-invent our town centres' and to 'encourage a sustainably developed built environment. It also supports Torbay's Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans.

Our housing priorities:

1. Improve housing supply
2. Improve housing quality
3. Improve housing support

Our cross-cutting principles:

4. Put our customers first
5. Tackle climate change
6. Work in partnership¹.

Introduction

- 1.1 Our current Housing Strategy was adopted prior to the Council declaring a Housing and Climate emergency in 2021 and prior to the C-19 Pandemic in 2020. Both the Housing Delivery Group and the Torbay Strategic Housing Board have recommended that the Strategy be reviewed in light of the Council's new priorities
- 1.2 The draft Strategy will set out what the Council, with its partners, will be doing over the next 10 years to improve the housing situation for our current and future residents. Responses to the consultation will better inform the approach we will take with all our partners and stakeholders to improve housing supply, conditions and support.
- 1.3 The draft Strategy has been developed Council wide and has been reviewed by Senior Leadership Team and elected members.
- 1.4 The Strategy supports a number of local strategies and plans, such as the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2026, Carbon Neutral Torbay by 2030, the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.
- 1.5 An action plan will be developed to sit alongside the strategy and will be presented to Cabinet for ratification together with the final strategy on 23 February 2023.

2. Options under consideration

- 2.1 Not undertake a consultation; this would negate the benefits identified in Section 2 above, 'Reason for proposal and its benefits'

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 Staff resources will be needed to undertake the consultation and analyse results

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications to undertake the consultation, other than the Council's commitment to consult for a minimum of 6 weeks on major plans that affect all of Torbay

5. Engagement and consultation

- 5.1 The draft Strategy has been developed Council wide and has been reviewed by Senior Leadership Team and elected members. The next step is to engage with the public, partners and stakeholders.
- 5.2 We intend to consult with the following groups and platforms:
 - Affordable Housing Partnership (27)

- Devon Home Choice applicants (1,500)
- Living Options
- Elected members
- Torbay Council newsletter
- Households in temporary accommodation
- Neighbourhood forums
- Senior Voice of Devon
- Staff Newsletter (600)
- Torbay Council website
- Facebook and Twitter
- Registered provider tenants
- Town Councils
- Torbay Strategic Housing Board
- Children's Services
- Adult Social Care
- Public Health England
- Planning
- National Health Service
- Health & Well-being Board
- Private landlord associations
- Voluntary sectors
- Torbay Schools and Learning
- Devon County Council
- Devon and Cornwall Police
- Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue
- Homes England

6. Purchasing or hiring of goods and/or services

- 6.1 It is not anticipated that the consultation will require the purchasing or hiring of goods and/or services

7. Tackling climate change

- 7.1 One of the cross-cutting principles in the Strategy is to 'tackle climate change' and will contain a number of actions to address this issue

8. Associated risks

8.1

9. Equality impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

- 9.1 We will work across the Council, particularly with the Communications Team, as well as with partners and stakeholders to make sure that everyone in the Bay has an opportunity to

get involved. The consultation will be conducted in plain English and offer alternative formats to those who need assistance

| | Positive Impact | Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions | Neutral Impact |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Older or younger people | | | Neutral |
| People with caring Responsibilities | | | Neutral |
| People with a disability | Other formats available | | |
| Women or men | | | Neutral |
| People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community) | | | Neutral |
| Religion or belief (including lack of belief) | | | Neutral |
| People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual | | | Neutral |
| People who are transgendered | | | Neutral |
| People who are in a marriage or civil partnership | | | Neutral |
| Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave | | | Neutral |
| Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation) | | | Neutral |
| Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay) | | | Neutral |

10. Cumulative Council Impact

10.1 Build on the Council's understanding about what our communities want in relation to housing and planning

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

11.1 To reinforce our commitment to let our communities know that we are listening