

Meeting: Council

Date: 3 February 2016

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Torbay's Housing Strategy 2015 – 2020 – Mayor's Response to Council Recommendations

Is the decision a key decision? Yes

When does the decision need to be implemented? Immediately

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1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 Torbay's Housing Strategy is an overarching document which co – ordinates a number of priorities and documents. This document recognises the need for a strategic approach for all housing tenures in Torbay.
- 1.2 Our Vision – ***“We want to enable the provision and choice of homes where people can thrive, this helps our economy by offering security and settled homes for longer, promoting health and wellbeing and reduces the impact on the environment. We want to help our communities to recognise and tackle the inequality faced by families, the poor and the vulnerable.”***
- 1.3 The three key elements we are setting out to achieve and enable are:
 - 1) Meeting Housing Demand
 - 2) Housing Commissioning “ My Home is My Life” (includes the Homelessness Strategy)
 - 3) Improving the Quality of Homes
- 1.4 The draft Housing Strategy and associated documents were considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board at its meeting held on 23 November 2015. The Board's views are set out in its report which is included with the agenda. In the main, the views of the Board have been taken on board within the documents now presented to the Council.
- 1.5 At the Council meeting held on 10 December 2015, the Council resolved:

“That the Council formally objects to the draft Housing Strategy on the basis that:

- i) the targets contained therein are not sufficiently specific, measureable, attainable, relevant and timely;
- ii) the targets contained therein are not sufficiently ambitious;
- iii) the strategy does not detail sufficiently how the Council’s assets will be utilised in order to deliver the strategy;
- iv) the strategy is not clear whether the delivery plans contained therein are considered to be a part of the Policy Framework; and
- v) that the role of Overview and Scrutiny in the Housing Partnership Steering/Monitoring Group is not clear.

In accordance with the Constitution, Standing Order – Budget and Policy Framework, paragraph F4.9, the Council therefore requires the Mayor to consider this objection and by 8 January 2016 either:

- a) submit a revision of the Housing Strategy with the reasons for any amendments to the Council for its consideration; or
- b) inform the Council of any disagreement that the Executive has with any of the Council’s objections and the Executive’s reasons for any such disagreement.”

1.6 The Mayor considered the Council’s objections and published his formal response on 7 January 2016. A copy of the Mayor’s response highlighting changes to the original Housing Strategy is set out at Appendix 7 to this report. The final recommended Housing Strategy is set out at Appendix 2 to this report.

2. Reason for Proposal

2.1 The proposed Housing Strategy and statutory Homelessness Strategy will enable the priorities identified to be delivered and monitored within a new performance and governance framework. This strategy supports other Council priorities, in particular it recognises the need to alleviate the pressure on Adults and Children’s Social Care and Health services.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

3.1 That Torbay’s Housing Strategy including “My Home is My Life” and the new Homelessness Strategy set out at Appendices 2, 3 and 4 to the submitted report be approved.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Supporting Information and Impact Assessment

Appendix 2: Torbay’s Housing Strategy 2015 - 2020

Appendix 3: “My Home is My Life”

Appendix 4: Homelessness Strategy

Appendix 5: Housing and Health Needs assessment

Appendix 6: Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board

Appendix 7: Torbay's Housing Strategy 2015 – 2020 Mayor's Response to Council
Objections

Background Documents

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment