

DATE OF COMMITTEE

21ST September 2011

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER QUALITY OF LIFE

TITLE OF REPORT

Draft Healthier Housing Strategy and Action Plan

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to approve the draft Healthier Housing Strategy (attached at Appendix A) and Year 1 Action Plan (attached at Appendix B). The draft will be subjected to further consultation with key stakeholders and will be amended as required to reflect the views of partners. However, on approval of this version of the draft Strategy and Action Plan, it is not anticipated that any of the identified key challenges, priorities or proposed approach will be changed as these have been agreed with partners following consultation on previous versions of the draft.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council approves the draft Healthier Housing Strategy and Year 1 Action Plan.
That Council delegates authority to the Portfolio Holder Quality of Life to agree any required amendments to the draft Strategy and Action Plan following further consultation with key stakeholders.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Delivery of actions contained within the Year 1 Action Plan will rely on existing resources in terms of staff time, existing budgets and the support of partner organisations as well as national agencies such as the Homes and Communities Agency. Where there is a resource implication for delivery of a specific action, either in terms of a financial or staffing resource, this will be incorporated into a more detailed project plan that will, if required, be subject to separate member approval.

As the Strategy Action Plan is consistent with identified business plan objectives, resource implications will also be dealt with for Year 1 of the action plan via this route and in subsequent years it is intended the development of the Directorate Business Plan will be directly linked to the formulation of the revised Strategy Action Plan following its annual review and refresh.

Effective monitoring arrangements as set out in the Strategy and highlighted in the background information below will ensure delivery of outcomes and identify any resource requirements that have either impeded progress or are likely to be required for future projects as the Council's approach to housing and health is further developed over the coming years.

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS BACKGROUND

All legal and risk implications associated with the delivery of the Healthier Housing Strategy will be dealt with as required via specific project plans and member approval as has been the case when delivering key actions identified in previous housing and homelessness strategies. Additionally, on approval of this draft, a full Risk Assessment, Equalities Impact Assessment and Health Impact Assessment will be undertaken that will highlight any key risks that will need to be addressed. Key risks identified to date as part of the Strategy development process include:

- Availability of funding to deliver key projects/actions
- Additional pressures arising from continued economic difficulties faced by local

residents

- The impact of new government legislation relating to housing, welfare benefits and planning reform
- Insufficient buy-in from partners to assist in delivery of the Strategy

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Delivery of priorities and outcomes identified in the Healthier Housing Strategy will contribute to improved health outcomes for local residents and contribute to the economic regeneration of localities. These and other associated outcomes would contribute towards the delivery of key priorities identified by the Tamworth Strategic Partnership and adopted by Tamworth Borough Council.

CONCLUSIONS

The Healthier Housing Strategy is intended to direct housing activity in Tamworth that will deliver positive outcomes that contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents living in the Borough. The Strategy supports the delivery of key priorities identified by the Tamworth Strategic Partnership and will drive the development of the Council's approach to housing and health over the coming years. Having a yearly action plan that is refreshed on an annual basis to incorporate business plan objectives, emerging national policy and feedback from customers will ensure the Strategy remains relevant to the needs of the people of Tamworth.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Following member approval to proceed with the development of a Housing and Health Strategy in March 2010, considerable research and consultation has been undertaken with partners and members of the public to develop the Healthier Housing Strategy and Year 1 Action Plan.

The Strategy describes how we will contribute to achieving the vision and priorities identified by the Tamworth Strategic Partnership. Delivery of the Strategy will ensure that:

- There are suitable homes for everyone
- Homes are healthy, warm and safe
- People are able to maintain an independent and healthy lifestyle
- Neighbourhood environments enable safer and healthier communities

The Strategy and Action Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure performance has been monitored to deliver intended outcomes, the Strategy remains relevant and compliant with emerging government policy initiatives and is updated with a refreshed Action Plan that further assists in the development of the Council's approach to housing and health.

This draft is a deliberately shorter document than previous versions and takes into account feedback received from partners and issues concerning the accessibility of Council documents. The final Strategy when published will be supported by a suite of documents that will provide further detail on the challenges faced in Tamworth relating to housing and health, how the Strategy was developed and the evidence that was utilised to develop our priorities.

The production of the draft has been fully supported by health colleagues and other partners and has generated interest at a regional level and with the Department of Health. It is anticipated the Strategy will drive the Council's approach to housing and health and assist in the development of effective joint working that enables the pooling of resources, capacity and skills to deliver positive, value for money outcomes for the people of Tamworth.

REPORT AUTHOR

Steve Pointon

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Housing LIN Briefing Paper Two: Public health and housing: we can get it right

APPENDICES

A Draft Healthier Housing Strategy

B Draft Healthier Housing Strategy Action Plan (Year 1)

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