



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

21ST APRIL 2016

CABINET

AGENDA ITEM (7)

CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT HOUSING PLAN

Accountable Member	Councillor Mrs. SL Jepson Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing
Accountable Officer	Philippa Lowe Head of Planning and Strategic Housing 01285 623515 philippa.lowe@cotswold.gov.uk
Purpose of Report	To consider the draft Housing Plan and approve a process for public consultation.
Recommendation(s)	(a) That the draft Housing Plan be approved for consultation; (b) that the process and questions for consulting on the draft Housing Plan (including formal consultation with the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee) be approved; (c) that the Housing Plan 2012-2016 continues in force until a new Housing Plan has been approved by the Council.
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	The Council is required to have a Homelessness Strategy (Homelessness Act 2002) and Strategic Tenancy Policy (Localism Act 2011), both of which should be developed in consultation with partners and members of the public. These documents have been combined with a plan that will steer the housing work of the Council, so that it contributes to the Council's Priority 'To champion issues which are important to local people'. Together, these documents will form the Council's Housing Plan.
Ward(s) Affected	All
Key Decision	Yes
Recommendation to Council	No
Financial Implications	There are no immediate financial implications other than the costs of producing some hard copies of the Housing Plan for consultation and the cost of consultation events, e.g. hiring of venues.
Legal and Human Rights Implications	None

Environmental and Sustainability Implications	None
Human Resource Implications	None other than day-to-day workload on the Strategic Housing Team.
Key Risks	None
Equalities Impact Assessment	An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and the findings have been incorporated into the Plan

Related Decisions	None
Background Documents	None
Appendices	Appendix 'A' - Draft Housing Plan Appendix 'B' - Draft Housing Plan 2016-2020 : Action Plan 2016-18

Performance Management Follow Up	Conduct consultation and report responses back to a future Cabinet meeting; prior to onward recommendation to Council.
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Options for Joint Working	The Housing Plan includes various areas of joint working with West Oxfordshire DC and other Gloucestershire authorities. There is no opportunity for joint working on the consultation process.
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Background Information

1. The District's current Housing Plan 'Local Homes for Local People' ends in 2016. It incorporates the Homelessness Action Plan and Strategic Tenancy Policy, which are both statutory requirements. Following review, updated and revised versions of these documents are included in the draft Housing Plan 2016-2020. In addition, the draft document contains a policy on discharging the statutory homeless duty into the private rented sector.
2. The housing landscape and legislation is changing rapidly under the new Government. Recent announcements about changes to the rent model for social housing, and the Housing and Planning Bill and what this will mean for housing in its wider context, are still being considered. The draft Housing Plan covers a four-year period as it identifies broad approaches and key achievements under the current Housing Plan. The draft Action Plan is for two years, but will be reviewed and updated regularly to respond effectively to change and new opportunities.
3. Consultation on the new Plan started in 2015 and has involved partners and stakeholders from the statutory, voluntary and charity sectors, registered providers and Council Members and Officers. The draft Housing Plan and Action Plan reflect those discussions and identify some ways in which other organisations could contribute to delivering the Plan.
4. The suggested process for further consultation, and the proposed questions, are outlined on Page 3 of the draft Housing Plan. It should be noted that the consultation process should include an opportunity for formal comment by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5. Subject to approval by the Cabinet, the draft Housing Plan will be made available for public consultation for six weeks from 3rd May 2016, after which a further report, detailing the outcomes of the consultation and providing an amended Housing Plan, will be submitted to the Cabinet.

6. The Council will continue to work with partners on the delivery of existing County-wide projects - this includes the procurement processes for a new choice based lettings system, and Home Improvement Agency service.

7. Attention is also drawn to the final recommendation, namely that the current Housing Plan 2012-2016 should continue in force until a new Housing Plan has been approved by the Council - this is to ensure that the Council has a valid Plan in force, in compliance with the statutory requirements.

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