

<b>COMMUNITY POLICY AND REVIEW PANEL</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 3</b>
<b>15 September 2016</b>	<b>EH&amp;H Report No.1623</b>

## **HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2017-21: PROGRESS REPORT**

<b>1. INTRODUCTION</b>	A briefing has been prepared to advise Members on progress made on the Council's new housing strategy, and to provide the opportunity for members to discuss and have input.
<b>2. BACKGROUND</b>	The period covered by the Council's current strategy ends this year: 2016/17. The Council has a statutory duty to have in place a Homelessness Strategy and a Tenancy Strategy. The Council's approach has been to prepare a single document covering the range of housing issues that will also satisfy the statutory requirements.
<b>3 PREPARATION</b>	Before drafting the strategy the following consultations have been carried out <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner consultation – April 2016</li> <li>• On line consultation – June 2016</li> <li>• Portfolio Holder and Housing Strategy Standing Group – July 2016</li> <li>• Homelessness Review – Summer 2016</li> </ul>
<b>4 KEY ISSUES</b>	The outcome of our consultations and research suggest that the principal housing issues for the borough are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High housing demand and affordability issues</li> <li>• Pressure on social rented housing stock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Right to buy,</li> <li>○ reduced subsidy for new build rented homes,</li> <li>○ development opportunities,</li> <li>○ viability</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Welfare reform</li> <li>• Rising homelessness</li> <li>• Quality of the housing stock particularly in the private rented sector</li> </ul>
<b>5 THEMES</b>	The strategy will aim to tackle these issues through four strategic themes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The right homes in the right place</li> <li>• Making best use of the housing stock</li> <li>• Helping people to solve their housing problems and provide a suitable home when needed.</li> <li>• Enabling people to live in good quality accommodation appropriate for their needs</li> </ul>
<b>6 ANCILLARY DOCUMENTS</b>	Other documents to be published alongside the strategy are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The achievements of the 2011-16 Strategy – a final report of the work done under the current strategy</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Homelessness Review 2016 – a statutory requirement for the preparation of a Homelessness Strategy</li> <li>• The Strategy Delivery Plan 2017-2021 – document that allows progress against the strategy objectives to be monitored</li> </ul>
<b>7.</b>	<b>PROPOSAL</b>
	Officers will bring a presentation to Panel to explain our approach and thinking so far, and to seek members' views on the key issues and the responses proposed by the strategy.
<b>8.</b>	<b>NEXT STEPS</b>
	Following the meeting with Panel the new strategy will be finalised. It is proposed that the completed version is considered by the Portfolio holder and the Housing Strategy Standing Group before it is considered by Cabinet and forwarded for adoption by full council on 23 February 2017.