

URGENT NON KEY DECISION: REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: Councillor Nick Neilson
Cabinet Member for Communities and Well-being

REPORT AUTHOR: Paul Thomas
Assistant Director for Growth and Development
p.thomas@southkesteven.gov.uk
01476 406162

REPORT NO. HS4

DATE: 12th September 2017

SUBJECT OF NON KEY DECISION:	Agreement of the draft Housing Strategy and Action Plan for wider consultation
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CABINET MEMBER REMIT:	Communities and Well-being	
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	None	
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	This report is publicly available on the Council's website www.southkesteven.gov.uk via your Council and Democracy link	
INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	Carried out and appended to report? Yes	Full impact assessment required? No
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Report HS1: South Kesteven District Council's Housing Strategy, report to Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 11 th July 2017. http://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s18222/Housing%20Strategy%20Report%20for%20Community%20OSC	

	<p>%20110717%20FINALdocx.pdf</p> <p>Report HS2: South Kesteven District Council's Housing Strategy, report to Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 5th September 2017.</p> <p>http://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s18367/HS2HousingStrategyReportCommunitiesOSC050917v3.pdf</p> <p>Report HS3: South Kesteven District Council's Draft Housing Strategy, report to Cabinet, 7th September 2017</p> <p>http://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s18377/HS3.pdf</p>
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To confirm that the attached draft Housing Strategy and draft Action Plan should be published for wider consultation following comments made during the overview and scrutiny process and following approval by Cabinet on 7 September 2017, which was conditional on a number of minor amendments.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1. That the draft Housing Strategy and draft Action Plan be published for wider consultation for a period of 6 weeks from the 14th September 2017 to 26th October 2017.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) **(including any alternative options considered and rejected)**

- 3.1. The current Housing Strategy for South Kesteven lasts up to 2018.
- 3.2. Two Housing Summits were held at the start of the year to consider the changing national housing environment, as well as the specific challenges facing the South Kesteven housing market.
- 3.3. A key challenge is the decline in the number of new homes being constructed against a growing and ageing population.
- 3.4. The Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the contents of the draft Housing Strategy (HS1) on the 11th July and endorsed a series of roundtables with key sectors of the housing industry.
- 3.5. A series of five housing roundtable discussions were held between 17th and 31st July, involving Developers, Registered Providers, Other Local Authorities, Landowners and Landlords.

3.6. The Communities and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered a second draft of the Housing Strategy (HS2) on 5th September 2017 and recommended that draft for wider consultation.

3.7. Report HS3 was considered by Cabinet on the 7th September.

3.8. In the run up to Cabinet, and during its meeting on the 7th September, Cabinet Members and those other Members in attendance provided comments on the Housing Strategy. Cabinet approved the draft Strategy subject to a number of minor amendments which have subsequently been included.

4. COMMENTS FROM FINANCIAL SERVICES

4.1. The direct financial implications of developing and adopting the strategy will be met from existing budgets. Longer term there may be more significant financial considerations specifically for the Council as a social landlord where it would seek to support the delivery of specific outcomes. These options will be considered in due course and incorporated into future budget setting proposals

5. COMMENTS FROM LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

5.1. Since the repeal of section 87 of the Local Government Act 2003 on 26 May 2015 there has been neither a statutory or regulatory provision imposing a requirement to have a Housing Strategy, however, it is nevertheless recognised as best practice to do so.

5.2. An initial Equality Impact Analysis has been carried out and we have identified that the Housing Strategy will have a positive impact on older persons and people with disabilities. At this stage, we do not know the full extent of this impact. We will, therefore, actively seek to directly consult with these identified groups through the consultation process.

6. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Draft Housing Strategy for wider consultation

Appendix 2: Draft Action Plan for wider consultation

Appendix 3: Equality Impact (initial assessment)

7. OFFICER CONTACT

Paul Thomas

Executive Manager Development and Growth

p.thomas@southkesteven.gov.uk

01476 406162

DATE DECISION EFFECTIVE:

12 September 2017