


REPORT TO SELECT COMMITTEE FOR POLICY REVIEW

04 September 2018

Subject:	Sandwell's Housing Strategy Statement
Director:	Director – Housing and Communities
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Exempt Information Ref:	The information contained in this report is not exempt from publication.
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DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Select Committee for Policy Review:

1. consider and comment upon the information presented at the meeting.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 At its meeting on 3 January 2018 the Select Committee for Policy Review used the completed policy assessment framework to determine key policy areas that it felt could be usefully supported by the Select Committee at this stage. One of the items identified for further consideration was the Housing Strategy Statement.
- 1.2 Officers will attend the meeting to provide an overview and current update on the Housing Strategy Statement.

2 IMPLICATION FOR THE COUNCIL'S AMBITION

- 2.1 The work of the Select Committee for Policy Review is strongly centred around Vision 2030, with the intended outcome of ensuring the authority's key strategies and policies support and reinforce the ambitions for Sandwell. The Housing Strategy Statement itself directly supports the following ambitions:

Ambition 7 – We now have many new homes to meet a full range of housing needs in attractive neighbourhoods and close to key transport routes;

Ambition 8 – Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The report was requested by the Select Committee for Policy Review.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Officers will attend the meeting to update the Select Committee on the current status of Sandwell's Housing Strategy Statement.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 Consultation on Council strategies and policies is undertaken during the review process as each document is refreshed.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 If the Council does not take the opportunity to ensure its key strategies and policies reflect the Vision and other recent developments then the ambitions set out in the Vision could be undermined through a lack of strategic support.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Any financial or resource-related implications of a Housing Strategy Statement will be investigated and reported when the document is submitted to the Cabinet.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 The legal and regulatory implications of a Housing Strategy Statement will be considered and reported when it is submitted for approval to the Cabinet. It is not a statutory requirement for a local authority to have a Housing Strategy.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 When a Housing Policy is submitted to the Cabinet it will be the subject of an equality impact assessment to ensure that there is no adverse effect on any disadvantaged or vulnerable groups.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 Robust assessments will be carried out throughout the preparation of the Housing Strategy Statement to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, codes and guidance relating to aspects of information governance.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 Any crime and disorder or risk matters will be assessed throughout the preparation of a Housing Strategy Statement.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

- 12.1 The work of the Select Committee will assist the Council to build a refreshed, relevant and sustainable suite of key policies and strategies, one of which is a Housing Strategy Statement.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

- 13.1 Any health and wellbeing implications will be assessed during preparation of a Housing Strategy Statement.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 When the Housing Strategy Statement has an impact on any Council managed property or land this will be investigated and included in the relevant report.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 To provide the Select Committee with an update on Sandwell's Housing Strategy Statement.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

17 APPENDICES

None.

Alan Caddick
Director – Housing and Communities