

**CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL
CABINET 27th August 2013**

Background Papers, if any, are specified at the end of the Report

**CHILTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL – STRATEGIC HOUSING
FRAMEWORK 2013-14**

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RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. That Members consider the draft Chiltern District Council Strategic Housing Framework 2013-14 and comment as appropriate.**
- 2. That the Head of Health and Housing be given delegated authority to agree and adopt the final version of the Strategic Housing Framework 2013-14 in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Housing.**

Relationship to Council Objectives

- 1. Efficient and effective customer focussed services*
- 2. Safe, healthy and cohesive communities*
- 3. Conserve the environment and promote sustainability*

Implications

- (i) Not a key decision*
- (ii) Within the Policy and Budgetary Framework*

Financial Implications

The Strategic Housing Framework 2013-14 will not have any direct financial implication as it is not putting forward any specific spending proposals. However, the document does highlight areas which may have financial implications and which will need to be taken forward in separate discussions

Risk Implications

The Strategic Housing Framework incorporates the Council's Affordable Housing Action Plan which will be used to manage and monitor the Council's response to the corporate risk caused by the shortage of affordable housing locally. The updating and adoption of the Strategic Housing Framework will also support the Council in demonstrating that it has a clearly planned strategic housing role. This will assist the Council in responding to any future performance

monitoring requirements that look at this area of work

Equalities Implications

The finalised Strategic Housing Framework 2013-14 will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment.

Sustainability Implications

Addressing housing need across Chiltern District (including improving the quality and use of existing accommodation) will significantly contribute to achieving sustainable communities.

Background

- 1 In 2011, the Council introduced a Strategic Housing Framework document. This document replaced the Housing Strategy documents that the Council had periodically published in the past and was intended to:
 - (i) provide an overview of the strategies and action plans that are relevant to the Council's strategic housing role and show how these relate the Sustainable Community Strategy for Chiltern District,
 - (ii) provide an annual update on the key housing issues facing Chiltern and how the Council is responding to them, and
 - (iii) provide the necessary supporting documentation, should the Council be inspected on its strategic housing role.
2. The first Strategic Housing Framework document was adopted by the Council following consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 22nd March 2011. It was agreed that the document would be reviewed and updated annually. In accordance with this requirement, the document was reviewed last year and the 2013 review has now been completed.
3. A copy of the revised and updated draft Framework document is in **Appendix**
4. The key points to note in the latest revised draft are:
 - (i) Section 6 includes a review of the impact of Affordable Rents in Chiltern (several Councillors have requested details of the impact to date) and an update on the position regarding the collection and allocation of Affordable Housing Contributions collected via the Planning Process.
 - (ii) The statement on the Council's position regarding the Core Strategy and Affordable Rents (in Appendix B of the draft) remains unchanged. As stated in the Affordable Housing SPD,

the Council's position on Affordable Rents will be reviewed annually within the Strategic Housing Framework.

- (iii) Several strategies have been removed from the summary in Section 5 as they are no longer "live".
 - (iv) The "Update" column in the Affordable Housing Action Plan (Appendix A of the draft) has been revised to show the latest position against each action. There have been no additions or revisions to the Actions themselves.
 - (v) Previous versions of the Framework document have included a review of the Council's Strategic Approach to Housing based on the KLOE (Key Lines of Enquiry) issued by the Audit Commission in January 2010. The Audit Commission is being disbanded and no new regulatory or assessment criteria have been issued for the Council's strategic housing role. Consequently, the KLOE assessment has been removed from the updated draft. Officers will continue to use the KLOEs to test the robustness of the Council's strategic housing role on an ongoing basis until any new assessment process is issued.
5. The draft document is also being reported to the meeting of the Housing and Planning Overview Committee on 14th August 2013 and a verbal update on the views of the Committee will be given at the Cabinet meeting

Background Papers: *Draft Strategic Housing Framework 2013/14*
