Report to Growth, Housing & Infrastructure Select Committee

Date:	6th October 2022
Reference number:	N/A
Title:	**Affordable Housing Update**
Cabinet Member(s):	Councillor Mark Winn/Councillor John Chilver
Contact officer:	**Nigel Dicker**
Ward(s) affected:	**All wards**
Recommendations:	**That the update report is noted**
Reason for decision:	**To monitor progress on the delivery of the Interim Affordable Housing Position Statement.**

1. Executive summary

1.1 This report provides an update to the Council's approach to the delivery of Affordable Housing following Cabinet's adoption of an Interim Affordable Housing Position Statement in May 2022. This statement set out the Council's plans for encouraging more Affordable Housing in the county including the possibility of delivering affordable residential properties on Council owned sites. The report updates the actions being taken against each of the commitments set down in the Position Statement.

2. Content of report

2.1 A Member Task and Finish Group was initiated in August 2021 and led by the incumbent Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness and Regulatory Services. The group met on a number of occasions to discuss the issues and challenges around the delivery of affordable housing in Buckinghamshire and to develop an Affordable Housing Position Statement for reporting back to the Leader and Cabinet.

2.2   On 10th May 2022, Cabinet received a report on the outcomes of the Task and Finish Group and adopted the interim Affordable Housing Position Statement that was put forward by the Group. The Position Statement was intended to set out the Council's interim approach and immediate commitment to bringing forward a development on a Council owned site that provided affordable housing, potentially with an element of specialist affordable and key worker housing.

2.3   This interim approach was intended to cover the period while the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping and overarching Housing Strategies were being developed and was expected to provide early tangible progress for the key Council priority of increasing the delivery of affordable housing. A copy of the adopted Position Statement can be found at **Appendix 1**.

2.4   Section 2.1 of the statement set down seven immediate commitments to increasing the delivery of affordable and key worker housing over the subsequent 12 month period. The table in **Appendix 2** provides an update on the progress to date against each of these commitments.

2.5   Work has now started on the development of a single Housing Strategy for Buckinghamshire that will consolidate and replace the previous legacy Council strategies. The development work includes engagement sessions with Members and key stakeholders (September 2022) along with wider consultation to produce a single Housing Strategy for the delivery of affordable housing. A draft of the strategy is expected before the end of the calendar year. The strategy will then be brought forward for consideration by the full Council.

3.   Other options considered

3.1   This is not applicable.

4.   Legal and financial implications

4.1   There are no general legal and financial implications associated with this update. Any implications for specific items mentioned in the update will be dealt with under the governance process for the item concerned.

5.   Corporate implications

5.1   This report relates to the Corporate Priorities for "Strengthening Our Communities" and "Protecting the Vulnerable".

6.   Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

6.1   Not applicable

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

7.1 Not applicable

8. Next steps and review

8.1 The Council will continue to monitor actions against the Affordable Housing Position Statement commitments.

9. Background papers

9.1 None

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the Democratic Services team.