



Report to Policy Committee

Author/Lead Officer of Report: Georgina Parkin

Tel:

Report of: *Ajman Ali – Executive Director of Operational Services*

Report to: *Housing Policy Committee*

Date of Decision: *8 June 2023*

Subject: *The creation of a Task and Finish Group to oversee work to develop the new Housing Strategy*

Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Not applicable at this stage. An EIA will be developed for the Housing Strategy</i>				
If YES, what EIA reference number has it been given? <i>(Insert reference number)</i>				
Has appropriate consultation taken place?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a Climate Impact Assessment (CIA) been undertaken?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Not applicable at the stage. A CIA will be undertaken for the Housing Strategy</i>				
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If YES, give details as to whether the exemption applies to the full report / part of the report and/or appendices and complete below:-				
<i>“The (report/appendix) is not for publication because it contains exempt information under Paragraph (insert relevant paragraph number) of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).”</i>				

Purpose of Report:

This report seeks approval to reconstitute and reappoint the Task and Finish Group overseeing work to develop a new Housing Strategy. Membership will be drawn from the Housing Policy Committee

The Terms of Reference of the Group is appended to this report.

**Recommendations:
That the Housing Policy Committee**

Reconstitute and reappoint a Task and Finish Group to oversee work to develop a new Housing Strategy and report on progress against the work programme.

Background Papers:

Terms of reference for Task and Finish Group

Lead Officer to complete:-		
1	I have consulted the relevant departments in respect of any relevant implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist, and comments have been incorporated / additional forms completed / EIA completed, where required.	Finance: <i>N/A at this stage</i>
		Legal: <i>N/A at this stage</i>
		Equalities & Consultation: <i>N/A at this stage</i>
		Climate: <i>N/A at this stage</i>
	<i>Legal, financial/commercial and equalities implications must be included within the report and the name of the officer consulted must be included above.</i>	
2	EMT member who approved submission:	<i>Ajman Ali – Executive Director of Operational Services</i>
3	Committee Chair consulted:	<i>Cllr Douglas Johnson</i>
4	I confirm that all necessary approval has been obtained in respect of the implications indicated on the Statutory and Council Policy Checklist and that the report has been approved for submission to the Committee by the EMT member indicated at 2. In addition, any additional forms have been completed and signed off as required at 1.	
	Lead Officer Name: Georgina Parkin	Job Title: Service Manager – Strategic Housing and Regeneration
	Date: <i>May 2023</i>	

1. PROPOSAL

1.1 The Council's published Housing Strategy 2013 – 2023 is due to run out. We are not required by Government to have a housing strategy, but a strategy document sets out people's housing needs and what the Council intends to do to address them. It helps partners understand the Council's priorities and helps them align their plans and funding. A new Housing Strategy will:

- Identify any mismatch between supply and demand
- Provide an overview of housing related issues in Sheffield
- Identify issues regarding housing conditions
- Set out the vision and overarching objectives for the provision of housing and housing services across the city including the focus on housing equalities and the key role Housing has a to play in meeting zero carbon targets by 2030.
- Make links and places the strategy within the context of national, regional and city policies and objectives.
- Set out the key objectives for the Council and its partners
- Establish priorities for action and spending priorities
- Develop an action plan and set out policy direction to deliver the Housing Strategy

The breadth of policy and investment issues which will be set out in the new housing strategy is significant. It is important that appropriate time is set aside for members of the Housing Policy Committee to consider housing context and options and advise officers of future priorities to develop the new Housing Strategy.

A decision was taken at the 10 November Housing Committee to appoint a time limited Task and Finish Group to oversee the development of the new housing strategy. A Terms of Reference was approved as part of this decision. These are appended to this report.

The Terms of Reference proposed 6 meetings would take place to focus on key policy issues which officers require advice on, and which Councillors requested. Before the elections in May 2023, the Group held 5 meetings. A summary of the meetings was produced. Meeting topics included:

- 1) Equalities
- 2) Supported Housing
- 3) Access to Rented Housing
- 4) Private Rented Sector
- 5) Decarbonisation

Following the elections in May 2023, the political make-up of the council is the same. However, the membership of the Housing Policy Committee has had some changes. It is therefore proposed that the Task and Finish Group is reconstituted to address unfinished or new areas in relation to developing a new Housing Strategy in line with the approved Terms of Reference.

In summary the Group functions include:

- The Group will have oversight of key housing issues and give advice to officers who are developing the Housing Strategy
- Raise awareness and share information about policies, strategies and, plans related to housing
- Feedback to the Housing Policy Committee about policy advice given to officers to shape the development of the housing strategy

The Council is also developing City Goals and has developed other significant interdependent strategies. The Task and Finish Group should also ensure the new Housing Strategy is in accordance and contributes to these.

The Housing Strategy will be developed over the summer and autumn with the final Strategy drafted in time for a decision at Housing Policy Committee in March 2024.

2. HOW DOES THIS DECISION CONTRIBUTE ?

- 2.1 Having a new Housing Strategy will directly contribute creating better communities and neighbourhoods and the Council's commitment to achieving net zero by 2030. Equalities, decarbonisation and supporting the most vulnerable communities are at the heart of the policy issues the Task and Finish Group will be considering. The Group will enable key policy issues to be debated by members from across the political parties. This will ensure collective agreement on issues which need to be addressed by the Housing Strategy. This will result in a more rounded and effective Strategy, benefitting the Council, its residents and partners. Political endorsement at an early stage will also provide traction for the Strategy development.

3. HAS THERE BEEN ANY CONSULTATION?

- 3.1 The Council is not required to consult on this proposal.

The Strategic Leadership Board have been briefed on the development of the Housing Strategy and recommended that the Housing Committee set up a Task and Finish Group to oversee this work.

The Housing Policy Committee approved the establishment of the Task and Finish Group on 10 November 2022.

4. RISK ANALYSIS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

4.1 Equality Implications

- 4.1.1 The Task and Finish Group will have Member representation from the 3 largest political parties, ensuring that advice is reflective of the political makeup of the Council.

The meeting programme will include a session dedicated to equalities. This will help make sure that equalities issues are embedded within the policy advice provided by the Task and Finish Group. An EIA will be completed for the Housing Strategy.

4.2 Financial and Commercial Implications

- 4.2.1 There are no direct financial and commercial implications because of creating a Task and Finish Group. However, the group will consider the financial implications of policy advice provided.

4.3 Legal Implications

- 4.3.1 Policy committees may appoint Task groups to assist in the performance of their duties. Only one Task group may be appointed at one time by each policy committee.

4.4 Climate Implications

- 4.4.1 There are no direct climate implications as a result of creating a Task and Finish Group. However, climate implications will be a key area of policy the Group will consider. A CIA will be completed for the Housing Strategy

4.4 Other Implications

- 4.4.1 Once this task group completes its work and ends, it is open to the Housing Policy Committee to appoint a new Task group for the Committee's remaining annual work plan.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 An alternative would be to deliver a series of knowledge briefings for the Housing Policy Committee. This was rejected as it would not enable constructive debate and advice to be provided to officers.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Task and Finish Group will bring together a small, focused group of members to examine key housing policy issues and provide clear advice to officers developing the strategy. Cross party representation will mean that political agreement is reached at an early stage of the process allowing the strategy to progress. This has been a significant barrier to the Strategy's development in the past.

The group will feedback advice given, and progress on the work programme to the Housing Policy Committee, so the Committee can make informed decisions on the Housing Strategy.