



CABINET

Wednesday 6 May 2020

HOUSING ENABLING STRATEGY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Council has, over recent years, committed itself to developing new housing (including new Council housing) in the district and various strategies have been adopted by the Council to support this.
2. This Housing Enabling Strategy has been written to clearly state the Council's role in encouraging, supporting and enabling new housing development in the district in cooperation with small and large scale developers, local communities, Registered Providers, as well as the Council's own Housing Development Team. It sets out specific actions to take forward between 2020 – 2025.
3. The Strategy is closely aligned to the Council's current Local Plans and Housing Action Plan together with existing adopted strategies and addresses sustainable housebuilding in recognition of the Council's declared climate emergency.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Members:	Cllr Richard Kerry, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing and Cllr David Ritchie, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning & Coastal Management

Supporting Officer:	David Howson Housing Strategy Manager 01502 523146 dave.howson@eastsoffolk.gov.uk
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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Housing Enabling Strategy is the first of its kind for East Suffolk and recognises the importance of the Council's role in enabling housing development in the district to address the unmet need for new homes in the area across a range of tenures. It covers a five-year period to 2025.
- 1.2 It is recognised good practice to have a Housing Enabling Strategy to bring a level of engagement and transparency to the Council's approach to new house building in East Suffolk, as well as encouraging and facilitating new development.

2 THE STRATEGY

- 2.1 The Housing Enabling Strategy covers the period 2020-2025 and sets out the Council's ambitions over the five years. It was initiated following an officer review of a Government report on local authority best practice for enabling residential development and was written with input from the Housing and Planning Teams. Following its adoption, the Strategy will be shared with developers, community groups and Registered Providers so that it is as inclusive as possible and will encourage their involvement.
- 2.2 The Strategy includes sections that address how the Council can support communities and partners to meet local housing need, how it can encourage sustainable housebuilding and facilitate self-build and custom housebuilding in the district, and how it can deliver more affordable homes. It also considers the use of the Council's own assets to create and unlock opportunities throughout the district alongside strategic 'master-planning' to deliver successful large-scale schemes.
- 2.3 The Council is mindful of its declaration of a climate emergency and this strategy includes our approach to sustainable housing with specific actions to produce a Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document that will relate the sustainable aspects of the Local Plans of the Council.
- 2.4 Throughout the Strategy there are a series of actions aimed at bringing transparency and clarity to our processes, ensuring the Council is moving in the right direction to achieve the objectives outlined within the Strategy. These will be reviewed annually by officers and the Cabinet Members for Housing and Planning & Coast Management.

3 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?

- 3.1 The East Suffolk Business Plan's Vision includes 'the need for new homes that are affordable and local to our communities', and one of the critical success factors is 'Improved access to appropriate housing to meet existing and future needs, including more affordable homes for local people'. The Housing Enabling Strategy seeks to meet these objectives as well as those stated within the Housing Strategy to help deliver good quality affordable homes across a range of tenures that improve living conditions for

members of the community. This will help keep people well and safe and inevitably contribute to improved quality of life for the residents of the district.

4 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Housing Enabling Strategy considers the approach the Council will take to future housing development in the district across all tenures. This development can bring economic benefits to the district by enabling housing opportunities and unlocking problematic sites resulting in a positive economic impact in the area. There are however no financial implications for the Council with the adoption of the Strategy.
- 4.2 The listed actions within the Strategy will be monitored by officers and reported to the respective Cabinet Members on an annual basis to deliver effective governance of the Housing Enabling Strategy.

5 OTHER KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 This report has been prepared having considered the results of an Equality Impact Assessment where no negative impact was identified.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Strategy has been written by the Council's Housing Team in partnership with the Planning Team. No external consultation has taken place in its drafting.

7 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 This Strategy is the first of its kind in East Suffolk. It outlines the issues facing the Council to enable an increased and diverse range of housing development to meet the needs and aspirations of the community in the district.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Cabinet approves the Housing Enabling Strategy 2020-2025

APPENDICES

Appendix A	Housing Enabling Strategy
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BACKGROUND PAPERS Please note that copies of background papers have not been published on the Council's website www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk but copies of the background papers listed below are available for public inspection free of charge by contacting the relevant Council Department.

Date	Type	Available From
20.2.2020	Equality Impact Assessment	David Howson